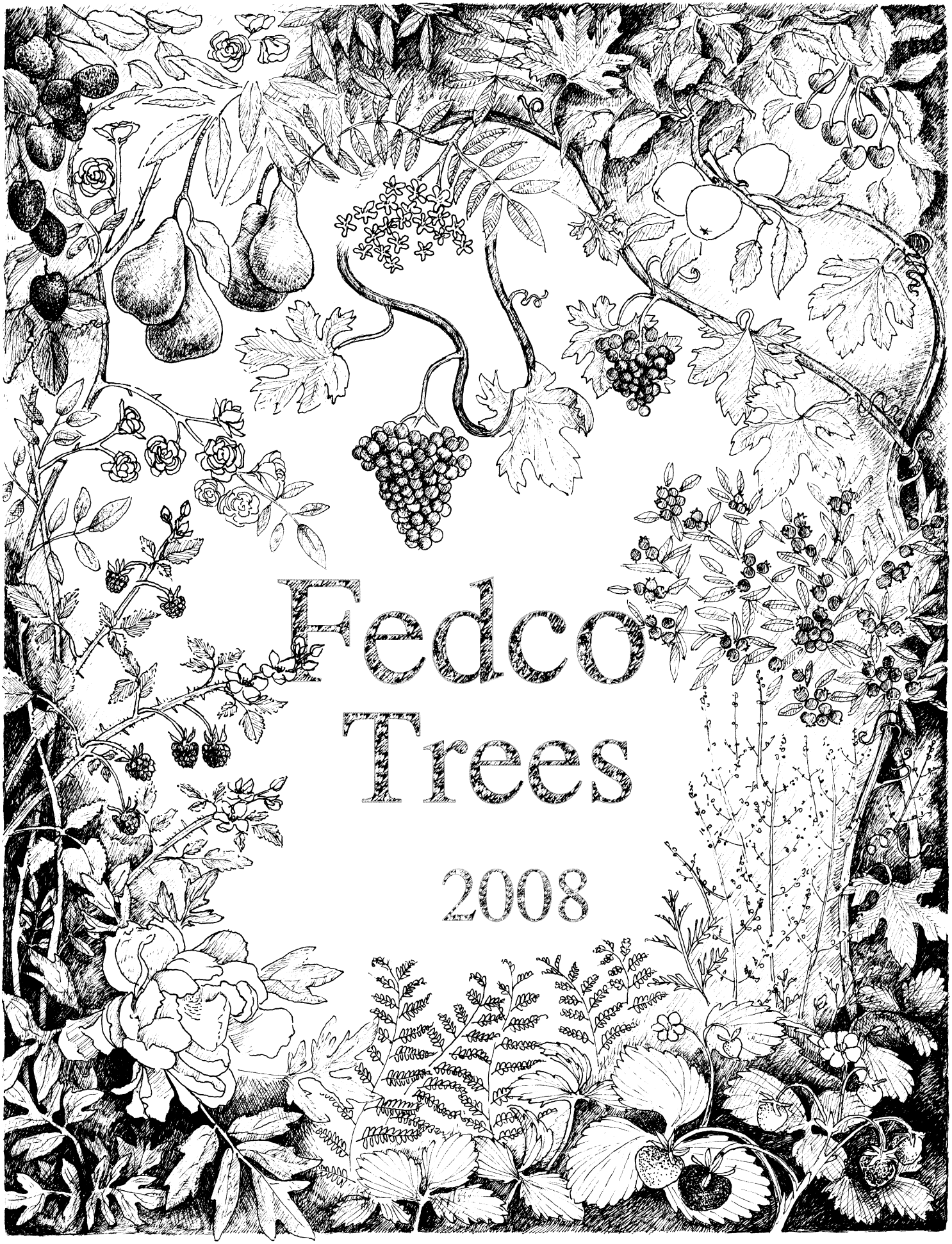

Fedco
Trees
2008

FEDCO TREES 2008

Welcome to Fedco Trees' 24th annual order. Our goal is to provide the hardiest and healthiest plants available for cold climates, while supporting small-scale, local agriculture and a fair, cooperative and responsible workplace. As far as we know, there is nothing else like Fedco Trees anywhere on earth. Accept no imitations! Our no-frills operation and volume discounts help keep plants affordable. Consider ordering in a group with co-workers, friends or neighbors to further minimize your costs.

We have three goals when we do our pricing. We support 20-25 local farmers who produce most of the trees and shrubs for us. We support the staff who brave the cold, wet basement for weeks every spring to tag, pack and ship tens of thousands of plants. And we provide trees and shrubs for you, our customers, at fair prices. With your help we can do all three for many years to come.

Noted for its gigantic wall, "The Green Monster," Fenway Park in Boston is one of the few places I know that looks good without a tree. The Green Monster does, however, loom above left field like the green movement that now appears to be sweeping over the world. Nearly everywhere you look these days people are talking Green. And they don't mean the stuff that used to grow on Wall Street. In Boston they will be planting a million new trees in the next ten years. In LA it's ten million, I've read. In Chicago they have transformed the city with massive tree plantings and green spaces. In several major European cities they're charging motorists to drive their cars into town. New York may be the first city in the U.S. to do the same, although only after a lot of kicking and screaming. Outside Fenway Park they're even selling "Green Monstah" T-shirts on Lansdowne Street. The Green Monster is coming!

Simultaneous movements big and small all over the states and around the world pursue the same goals. Food security. Food justice. Community gardens. Victory gardens. Slow food. Organic food. Sustainable food. Beyond organic. Biological agriculture. Bio-regionalism. Bio-dynamics. Eat local. Edible landscaping. Edible forest gardens. Equal exchange. Permaculture. Green Belt. More trees, more gardens, less pavement, less lawn, less poison. What do all these ideas have in common? All over the world people are working locally and cooperatively to address the apocalyptic mess we now face. The Green Monster sees through all the tired old worn-out excuses for inaction. Look out, the Green Monster is leading the way!

In October 2006, Cammy and I attended the five-day Slow Food conference called Terra Madre in Turino, Italy. We were among 5000 farmers, 1000 chefs and 500 agricultural educators from 150 countries. It became clear to me at Terra Madre that we are a part of a worldwide movement. Groups from around the globe are working to create a different kind of future. This is a different kind of globalism: one where humans think together and communicate with one another on a global scale, while they act locally to create local sustainable communities, local sustainable economies and local sustainable food systems. It was an incredibly inspired and inspiring event. The Green Monster is worldwide!

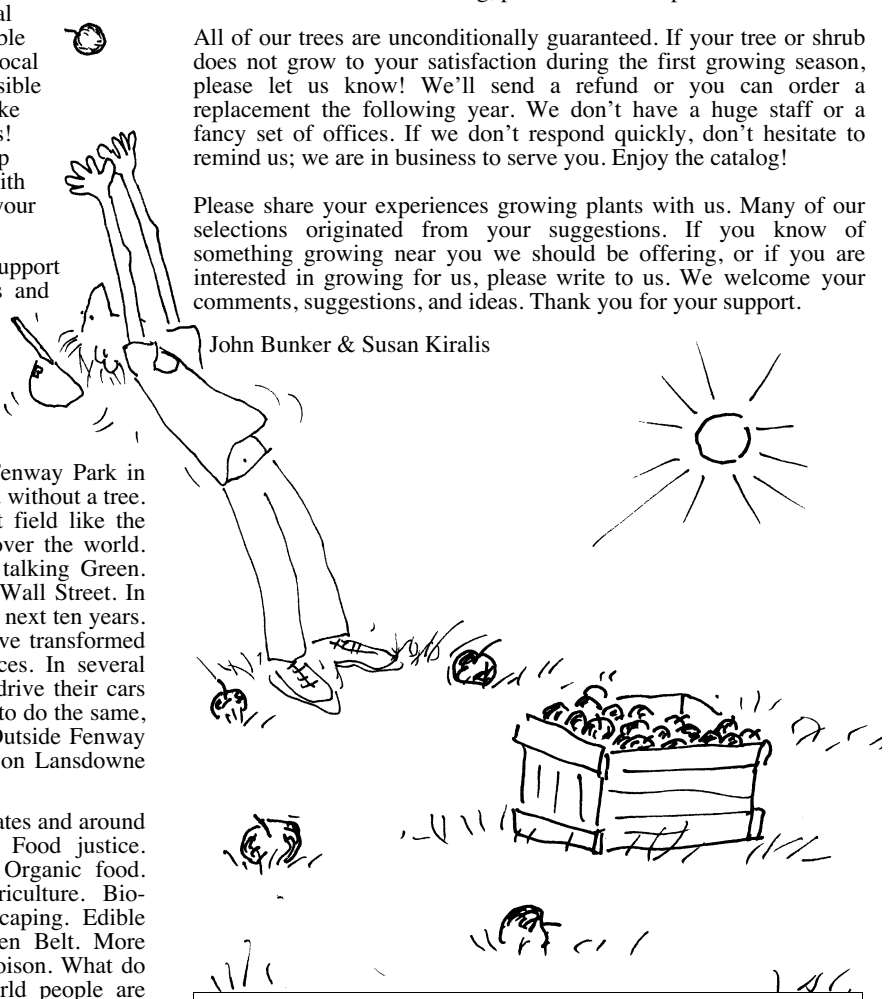
We hope this Fedco Trees catalog will help you to turn your yard into an edible garden. We hope it will be a source of endless inspiration and entertainment as you experiment and create your own Green Monster. Our yard is a chaos of edible and ornamental plants, feasts for the eyes, nose and belly. Each year we offer more plants we think can play a role in your landscape large or small, rural or urban. This year we have also included some of our favorite recipes. The selections are designed to assist you as your plantings come to fruition. Most of the recipes are adaptable to multiple fruits. We think you'll find them useful, delicious and fun. The Green Monster is coming and the Green Monster is a feast! Enjoy!

We do special orders. If you wish to buy large quantities of any item, larger or smaller plants than we are listing, rooted cuttings, or unusual items we're not listing, please write with particulars.

All of our trees are unconditionally guaranteed. If your tree or shrub does not grow to your satisfaction during the first growing season, please let us know! We'll send a refund or you can order a replacement the following year. We don't have a huge staff or a fancy set of offices. If we don't respond quickly, don't hesitate to remind us; we are in business to serve you. Enjoy the catalog!

Please share your experiences growing plants with us. Many of our selections originated from your suggestions. If you know of something growing near you we should be offering, or if you are interested in growing for us, please write to us. We welcome your comments, suggestions, and ideas. Thank you for your support.

John Bunker & Susan Kiralis



Check out our website: **www.fedcoseeds.com** and click on Fedco Trees.

You may order online. We also post color photos of most of our trees, shrubs and perennials and a wide range of information. If you have ideas for what we should include, please let us know.

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Phone 207-873-7333

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We guarantee the quality of our trees and plants, and warrant that all items we offer are fully satisfactory. If you are dissatisfied for any reason, we will replace the item or refund the purchase price.

Please inspect your order upon receipt and use the correction sheet to notify us immediately of any problems. Because good results depend upon weather, soil and cultural practices over which we have no control, we limit our liability in all instances to the purchase price. The liability of Fedco Seeds, Inc., for breach of warranty, or any loss or damages arising out of the purchase or use of our products, including loss or damages resulting from any negligence whatsoever on our part, or strict liability in tort, shall be limited to the purchase price. By acceptance of the merchandise, the buyer acknowledges that the limitations and disclaimers herein described are conditions of sale, and that they constitute the entire agreement between the parties regarding any warranty or liability. Claims for any defects in Fedco's products should be presented to Fedco as soon as possible after discovery. Failure to assert claims within 30 days after discovery renders this warranty null and void.

Ordering Information —

The order forms - Order items from this catalog on a Trees 2008 order form, in the center of the catalog; you may submit as many pages as you need, either photocopies, forms downloaded from our website or printouts mimicking our format. To encourage you to participate in a group order and to order early, we give discounts.

Payment with check, money order or credit card must accompany all orders. We request that all orders under $25 pay by check or MO. Make your check out to Fedco. We accept Visa and MasterCard and will charge your credit card when we receive your order. We will bill or refund you for any adjustments as each order is completed.

- **Mail** your order: **Fedco Trees, PO Box 520, Waterville, ME 04903-0520.** Keep a copy of your order for your records. To confirm receipt of your order, enclose a stamped self-addressed postcard.
- **Online**: go to **fedcoseeds.com** and click on Fedco Trees.
- **Fax** your order: (207) 872-8317. Fax orders pay a $2 handling fee.
- **We do not take phone orders.**

Group orders: mail us at one time all the order forms from your group members with one payment and we will ship all the orders, packaged individually, to one address. The group total earns the discount if it qualifies. Use the front of an order form for a group address and payment cover sheet. We recommend making a copy of each group member's order before you send the batch to us. We are not yet equipped to take group orders online.

Maine sales tax - for **Maine residents and pickups only.** Please add 5% sales tax.

We charge **$10 for handling if you adjust your order**. Additions, deletions and cancellations are costly for us to process. You are welcome to place as many separate orders as you wish.

We will offer surplus for sale at the Tree Sale. Sometimes we have stock left over after the Tree Sale, but never after May 15th, when we shut down completely and go home to plant.

Our Planting Guide
is incorporated into the catalog. **Save your catalog** for planting and cultural instructions. We will not send planting guides with orders unless you request them.

Our Variety Descriptions –

All trees and plants are bare-rooted (except where noted), and even a large order can fit into a station wagon. All fruit and nut trees are well-rooted, 1/4-7/8" in diameter.

Fruit trees are grafted onto the hardiest standard-sized rootstocks available, except where noted. Standard trees are stronger rooted, hardier, and longer lived than dwarf or semi-dwarf trees. If you want a smaller tree, keep it pruned.

For fruit trees and berries, the **exact dates of peak ripeness** will vary from place to place.

The **zone hardiness rating** will aid you in determining whether a plant will be hardy for you. The average minimum temperature in your area determines your zone. See the chart below. Apple descriptions have minimum *and* maximum zones because apples typically need cold climates to produce the best fruit. Your own soil conditions, micro-climate and topography will be equally important in determining the best varieties for you.

Please note **pollination** requirements for fruits, nuts and berries. Some plants are self-pollinating, others require a second plant for pollination, and others require a plant of a second variety.

We strive to give you accurate information about all the plants we sell. If you notice inaccuracies, please let us know.

John writes the tree and shrub descriptions and Susan writes tender bulb and perennial descriptions.

Statements about medicinal uses of plants have not been evaluated by the FDA, and should not be used for the diagnosis, treatment, cure or prevention of any ailment. Before using or ingesting any medicinal plant, consult a healthcare practitioner familiar with botanical medicine.

USDA Hardiness Zone	Average Minimum Temperature
2	-50˚ to -40˚
3	-40˚ to -30˚
4	-30˚ to -20˚
5	-20˚ to -10˚
6	-10˚ to 0˚

Congratulations to Jennifer Jones of Blue Hill, ME, winner of the 2008 cover contest!

Discounts & Deadlines —

Discount deadline is **Friday, December 7, 2007.** Sorry, no volume discounts on later orders. Discounts apply only to orders shipped to one address.

over $200	10% discount
over $400	15% discount

Special discounts may be available for very large orders; please email trees@fedcoseeds.com or call (207) 873-7333 for a quote.

We fill all orders on a first-come first-served basis.

Final order deadline is **March 7, 2008.**

Shipping & Pickup —

We ship most orders **via UPS beginning in April**, and continue for about 10 days, timed according to planting zone. Our last regular ship date is around April 14. We will have a special late ship date around April 30. We do not ship at other times.

Shipping charges: All orders to be shipped pay a $5 box charge in addition to shipping. Shipping is 10% with the following minimums.

area	minimum charge
New England	$7.00
NY, NJ and PA	$9.00
all other states	$14.00

We ship to Alaska via Priority Mail; include 20% for shipping (minimum $14) and supply a postal address.

If you require a particular ship date during our regular shipping time or for shipment around April 30 **we charge an additional $15** to cover our extra handling costs.

Pick your order up at our warehouse in Clinton, Maine, during our annual **Tree Sale**. Fri and Sat, April 25–26, are reserved for preorder customers. The public is welcome on Fri and Sat, May 2–3. Sale times are 9:00 am–3:00 pm each day. We recommend that preorder customers come on April 25 or 26, shop at the full Tree Sale and avoid the crowds. We will send you a pickup reminder and map in April. Pickup orders may pay a 50% deposit, with the balance due at pickup.

VARIETY NAME — SEASON OF RIPENESS — AG. STATION TEST NUMBER — PARENTAGE

Rove Creeping Crabapple Late Fall. Ut71 (*M. Dubyanis* x *M. Atwater*) Austin, TX, 1994. Recently reintroduced to Austin. Semi-upright spreading tree, lily-white flowers and grape-like clusters of sour fruits. Probably not viable outside of Austin and Washington DC. Z8-10. ME Groan.

4545 Rove Creeping Crabapple, $20.50

ITEM NUMBER — ZONE RANGE — GROWN BY FEDCO GROWERS CO-OP

BOTANICAL NAME — COMMON NAME — MATURE HEIGHT x WIDTH

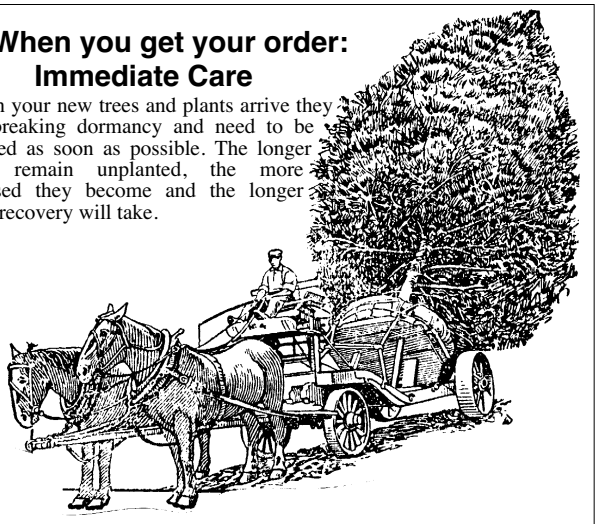
Castanea candidata præcox **Electoral Chestnut** 6-7 x 8' Tree flowers once every four years, although a premature flowering occurred this year. Some blossoms will not set fruit and the best fruit usually falls before anyone notices. The one or two nuts that do ripen are rarely sound. Grows thickly in IA, NH and SC although other states are trying to encourage stands. Z2. (8-16" poorly rooted transplants)

3750 Electoral Chestnut, up to $250,000,000

SIZE OF PLANT STOCK — PRICE — ZONE HARDINESS RATING

When you get your order: Immediate Care

When your new trees and plants arrive they are breaking dormancy and need to be planted as soon as possible. The longer they remain unplanted, the more stressed they become and the longer their recovery will take.



DO NOT ALLOW ROOTS TO DRY OUT AT ALL!!!

If You Intend To Plant Trees & Shrubs Within 48 Hours

Leave the plastic wrapping around the root ball. Add some water to remoisten the packing material and store your trees/plants in a cool shaded place like a shed, barn or cellar. Avoid heat and sunlight.

If You Cannot Plant Your Trees Within 48 Hours

You may keep plants for a week or two by following one of two temporary measures and continuing to water trees when they need it.

1) Remove the plastic wrap around the root ball. Store plants in a cool shaded place. Wrap the roots in wet shredded newspaper or sawdust, packing firmly to eliminate air pockets. Water thoroughly.

2) "Heel in" your plants. Dig a trench or turn back an appropriate amount of earth and bury roots; tamp firmly to remove air pockets. Water thoroughly.

Asparagus

Open up asparagus roots and store dry and uncovered in a cool shaded place.

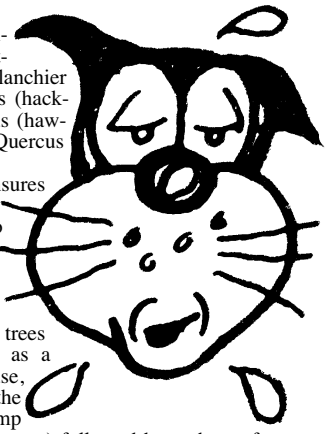
Strawberries

Refrigerate strawberry plants until you are ready to plant them.

Perennials

Open bags and check the stock immediately. Roots and crowns should be firm and pliable, not squishy or brittle. If they are slightly dry, add a little water or, if they are going to be potted up soon, soak the roots. Generally, a little surface mold is harmless and will not affect the plant's future performance. If you cannot pot them up immediately, store them in a cool (35-40˚) location for a short time. See page 48 for details.

Sweating Nursery Stock



Some trees and shrubs become extremely dormant during refrigerated storage. These include: Amelanchier (juneberry), Betula (birch), Celtis (hackberry), Cercis (redbud), Crataegus (hawthorne), Morus (mulberry), Quercus (oak), and Potentilla (cinquefoil).

Sweating nursery stock ensures breaking of dormancy. The easiest way to force any tree to break bud is to pot it and set it in a greenhouse or polyhouse. After the tree begins to leaf out, transplant it outdoors. If you don't have a greenhouse, lay the trees in a shady place, 45-70˚, such as a garage, basement, barn, greenhouse, or outdoors in the shade. Cover the whole plant with very damp packing material (hay, newspaper, etc.) followed by a sheet of plastic. Sweating will take several days; check the buds every day. The trees are ready to plant when the buds begin to swell.

Warm May weather will give the best results. Until then, heel your trees in, or store them with roots covered in a cool barn or garage.

TREE PLANTING AND CARE

Choosing a Site for Fruit Trees and Berries

The best sites for fruit crops have well-drained fertile soils, protection from wind, good air drainage, and full sun. A gentle slope and six to eight hours of full sun per day is ideal. Good air flow will moderate frosts and fungal disease. If possible, avoid "frost pockets."

Sunny south- or west-facing slopes are not advisable for less hardy varieties. These slopes tend to warm up before the danger of frost has passed. Trees may flower prematurely and then be damaged by frost, causing loss of fruit. South and west slopes may also have widely fluctuating early spring temperatures that can damage less hardy trees.

Soil pH for fruit trees should be between 5.5 and 8.0, towards the lower end for apples, the higher end for peaches, and in the middle for others. Fruit species have optimal space requirements. See chart below.

Do not plant trees where power lines will interfere with them.

Fall Preparation or Spring Initial Feeding for Fruit Trees

If you're interested in preparing locations for your trees this fall, or for feeding newly planted fruit trees, the following amendment recipe should address most sites in the eastern U.S., which tend to be acidic, and moderate to low in calcium and phosphorus. You can apply this mix as a mulch to your newly planted tree in the spring. To order any of these products, refer to the Organic Growers Supply section of our Seed catalog or website.

Deluxe Method

Without digging the hole, cover an area 4-6' in diameter with:

- 5 lbs gypsum or Hi-Cal lime
- 5 lbs colloidal phosphate (short-term calcium and phosphorus)
- 5 lbs azomite (long-term minerals and trace minerals)
- 5 lbs granite meal or greensand (for improved soil texture)
- 2-3 lbs menafee humates (aids mineral and rock-powder breakdown)
- 2-3 lbs greenstone (aids plants in nutrient uptake)

For building high levels of humus, also add:

- 2 lbs alfalfa meal
- 2 lbs bone meal
- 2 lbs kelp meal
- 2 lbs blood meal
- 100 lbs compost (1/8 yard)
- BioDynamic preps (optional)

Cover with a 3-4" mulch of lawn clippings, leaves or "brush" chips, which will smother the sod, conserve moisture, prevent leaching, and provide a habitat for soil organisms to break down the recipe. In the spring, pull back the mulch and dig your tree hole, incorporating the mineral supplements and compost into the backfill.

Simpler Method

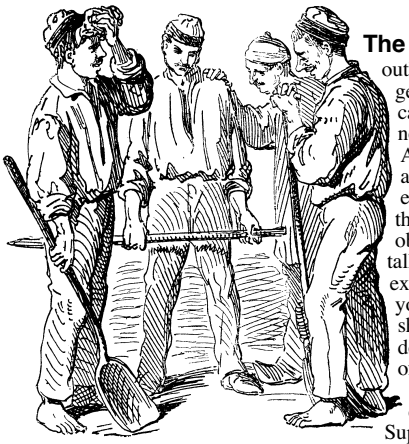
Forgo the soil amendments and simply pile 1-2 wheelbarrow loads of compost on each planting-hole site. If you live by the ocean, add a couple of wheelbarrows of seaweed. Then cover with mulch. In the spring, pull back the mulch and plant your tree, incorporating the compost into the hole as you dig.

Feeding older fruit trees

Cover the surface of the ground out to the drip line with the same materials listed above. For larger trees (five years and older) increase the mineral amount to 10-15 pounds each. For ancient trees you can add up to 25 lbs of each mineral in a ring beneath the drip line. Mulch as described above.

Plant Spacing of Fruit Trees and Berries

	between plants	between rows
Apples, Semi-dwarf	15'	15'
Apples, Standard	25-30'	25-30'
Asparagus	1-2'	4'
Blackberries	3-4'	6-12'
Blueberries, highbush	3-6'	8-10'
Blueberries, lowbush	1'	1'
Filazel	4'	hedge
Grapes	8'	8-10'
Kiwis	10'	10'
Nut trees - orchard	35'	35'
Nut trees - forest	20'	20'
Pears, Asian Pears	20'	20'
Raspberries	2'	6-12'
Stone Fruit	15-20'	15-20'
Strawberries	see instructions	
Sweet Cherries	25'	25'

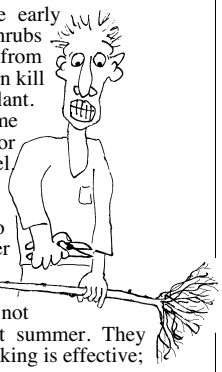


The basics of tree care are outlined here and are designed to get you going. Obviously we can't tell you everything you need to know in a few pages. Additional information, such as location and soil preferences, about specific plants is in the item descriptions. Reading, observation, trial and error, and talking with other growers and extension agents can expand your knowledge of trees and shrubs. A soil test is useful in determining the specific needs of your site.

Consult the Fedco Seeds catalog, Organic Growers Supply section, book list for some recommended reference books, or look for information on the internet. There are many useful links at our website, www.fedcoseeds.com.

General Planting Directions for Trees and Shrubs

Dig a large hole, at least twice as wide and about as deep as the root system. Most roots grow laterally and need plenty of room to spread out. Your trees will benefit if the hole is at least 3' wide. Loosen up the soil at the bottom of the hole and especially around the sides. For fruit trees, if you haven't used a deluxe fall preparation, you may add a 3-pound bag of our planting mix (available from the Organic Growers Supply section of the Fedco Seeds catalog), or well-aged compost and mineral fertilizers such as rock phosphate, but not manure or other nitrogen sources. We add about a coffee-can of rock phosphate for each fruit tree. You may also add a handful of azomite at this time. Replace the topsoil around the roots where it will do the most good. If you situate non-fruit trees according to their requirements, there is no need to add any supplements to your soil. This is the best way to ensure that your plants will thrive for many years.

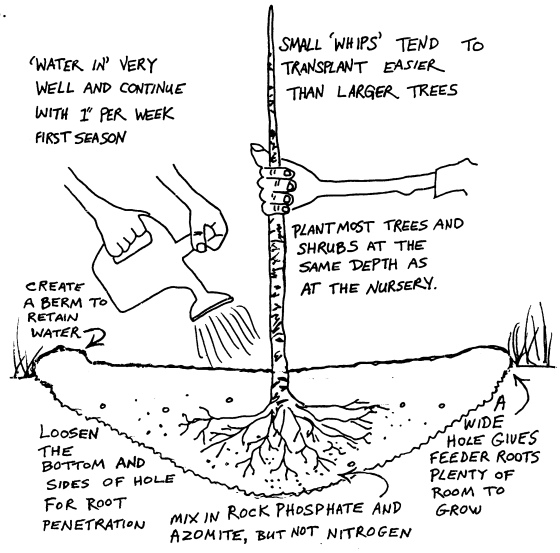


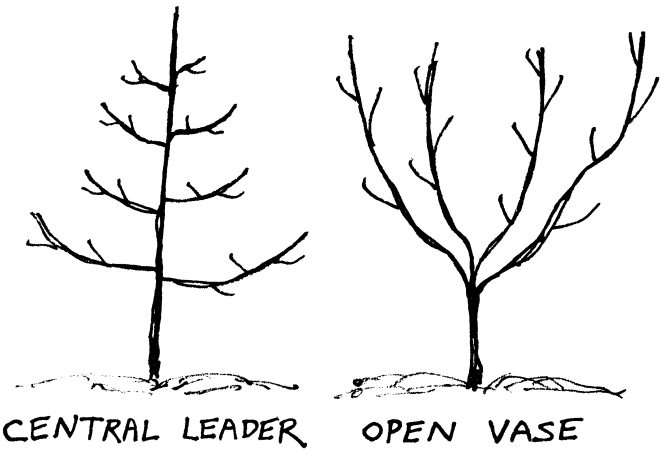
For best results plant on cool cloudy days in the early morning or late afternoon. Soak deciduous trees and shrubs for up to 24 hours before planting. Keep the roots from drying out. Even a few minutes in the sun and breeze can kill a tree or shrub. Keep them in a bucket of water as you plant.

Generally you should plant trees and shrubs at the same depth that they grew in the nursery. Plant semi-dwarf or dwarf fruit trees with the graft 2" above ground level. Spread the roots out as you set the trees in the holes. Make a mound at the bottom of the hole over which to spread the roots. Give your trees plenty of water to "puddle in" as you plant. Wiggle the trunk as the water seeps in to ensure that the roots are settled in with no air pockets. Leave a berm around each tree so that water will seep in and not run off. Keep them well watered throughout the first summer. They require the equivalent of 1-2" rain per week. A good soaking is effective; sprinkling is not.

Initial Pruning

Prune dead or injured branches and roots on all trees and shrubs. Further pruning of most trees is not necessary at planting time. Do not prune tops or prune or bend tap roots of nut trees. Specific preplanting pruning requirements for small fruits and some ornamentals is noted in their respective sections and more general information on pruning begins on p. 38. Conifers (p. 30) and roses (pp. 42-43) require special pruning. See their sections for details.

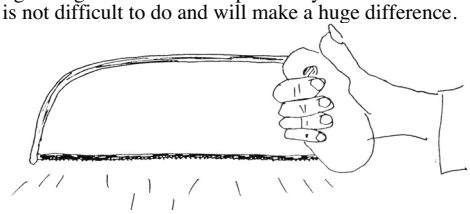

'WATER IN' VERY WELL AND CONTINUE WITH 1" PER WEEK FIRST SEASON
SMALL 'WHIPS' TEND TO TRANSPLANT EASIER THAN LARGER TREES
PLANT MOST TREES AND SHRUBS AT THE SAME DEPTH AS AT THE NURSERY.
CREATE A BERM TO RETAIN WATER
LOOSEN THE BOTTOM AND SIDES OF HOLE FOR ROOT PENETRATION
MIX IN ROCK PHOSPHATE AND AZOMITE, BUT NOT NITROGEN
A WIDE HOLE GIVES FEEDER ROOTS PLENTY OF ROOM TO GROW



Pruning Fruit Trees

Avoid pruning young trees except to establish a basic shape. Pruning young trees delays bearing. On apple and pear trees, leave the central leader alone and let it grow. It's ok to cut off extra trunks and large branches. Always remove suckers or root shoots from fruit trees. On peaches and plums, the trees may want to develop 2-4 leaders, or an open-vase shape. Always prune just above a good strong bud that faces a direction you'd like your plant to grow.

Once the tree begins to bear you will want to prune annually. Good pruning brings sunlight to all parts of your tree. Maximum sunlight encourages more and higher-quality fruit. Sunlight also encourages fruit buds to form for next year's crop. A well-pruned tree will produce larger fruit and will tend toward more annual bearing. Good pruning discourages fungal diseases and promotes greater spray penetration. There's an old saying that a bird should be able to fly through your fruit tree. Any good book on growing fruit trees will provide you the information you need. Pruning is not difficult to do and will make a huge difference.



Most pruning should be done in late winter or early spring, although some say the best time to prune is when you have your clippers in your hand. We recommend a good-quality pair of hand shears and a lightweight pruning saw. You may also wish to invest in long-handled loppers, a pole pruner or a pole saw. Keep your pruning tools sharp for smooth, clean cuts.

Consult old and new books as well as orcharding articles and develop a system that works for you.

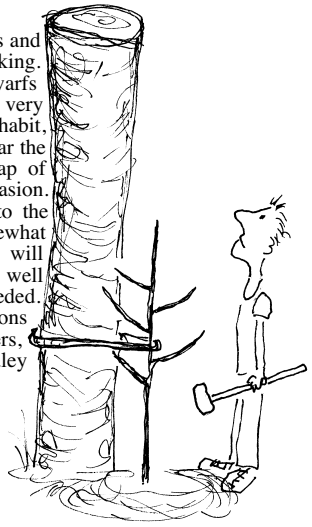
Weeping crabapples require special pruning. See p. 36 for instuctions.

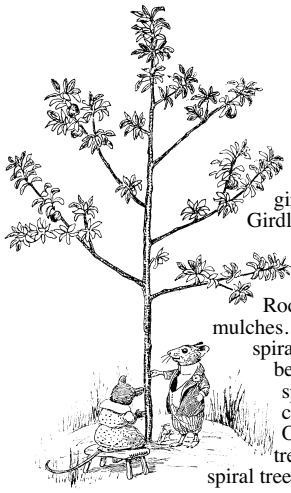
Mulch

Keep weeds and especially grass away from new trees and shrubs. Apply a 2-4" mulch of composted material, leaves, wood chips or hay out as far as the drip line. A 1/2-1" topdressing of alfalfa meal beneath the mulch may substantially reduce transplant shock. Keep mulch back several inches from the tree trunks. We lay down cardboard or newspaper and spread mulch on top of it. Mulch encourages earthworms, holds moisture, keeps down weeds, insulates against excess heat and cold, aerates and loosens soils, builds humus and fertilizes feeder roots, 90% of which are within 6" of the surface.

Staking

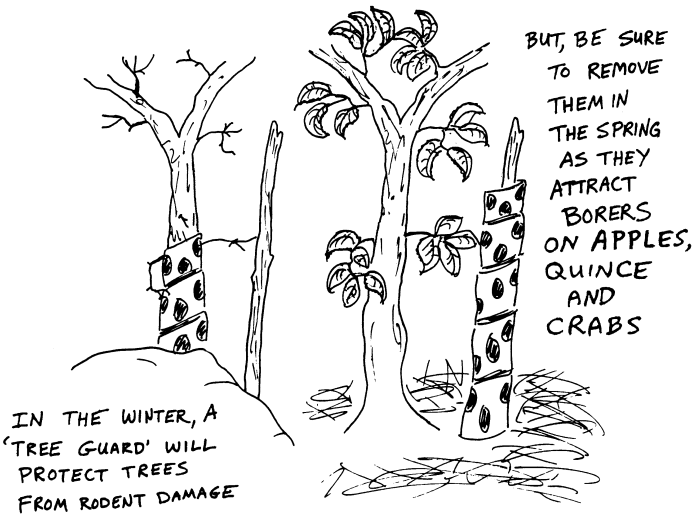
Newly planted standard-sized fruit trees and ornamental trees seldom need staking. Dwarf trees require staking. Semi-dwarfs may require staking. If your tree is in a very windy site or develops a leaning habit, staking may help. Drive a stout post near the tree. Wrap the tree trunk with a scrap of burlap or rubber to protect against abrasion. Secure the wrapped part of the tree to the post with string or wire. Tie tree somewhat loosely, as a slight rocking motion will encourage rooting. Once roots are well anchored, the stake may not be needed. Mark small trees with a stake with ribbons to warn operators of lawn mowers, tractors, cars, skidders and Bradley armored vehicles.





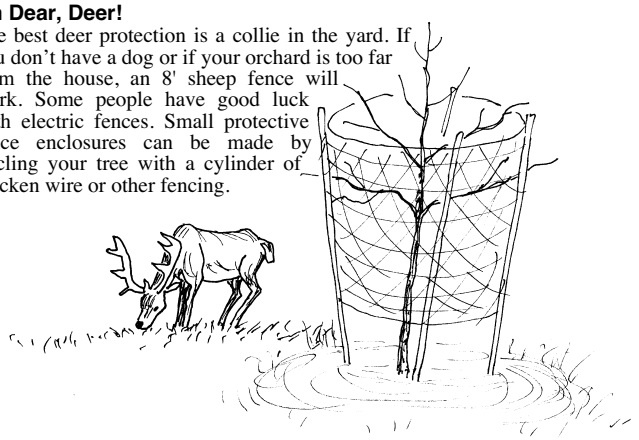
Mouse/Vole Protection

Fruit trees and ornamentals are sometimes girdled by mice or voles eating the bark. Girdling will usually kill the tree or shrub. The danger is greatest in winter. Keep the grass mowed in the fall and remove large mulch piles from near the trunks. Rodents like to nest in hay more than in chip mulches. A wrap of window screening or a plastic spiral tree guard will protect your tree from being girdled. If you use screening or plastic spiral tree guards on apple, quince or crabapple trees, remove them from April to October, as they attract borers if left on the tree in the summer. You can leave plastic spiral tree guards on most other trees year-round.

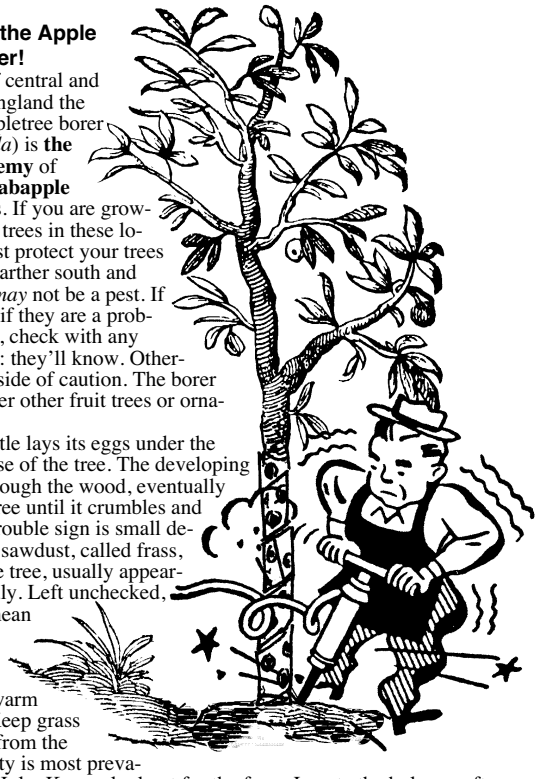

BUT, BE SURE TO REMOVE THEM IN THE SPRING AS THEY ATTRACT BORERS ON APPLES, QUINCE AND CRABS
IN THE WINTER, A 'TREE GUARD' WILL PROTECT TREES FROM RODENT DAMAGE

Oh Dear, Deer!

The best deer protection is a collie in the yard. If you don't have a dog or if your orchard is too far from the house, an 8' sheep fence will work. Some people have good luck with electric fences. Small protective fence enclosures can be made by circling your tree with a cylinder of chicken wire or other fencing.



Beware of the Apple Borer!

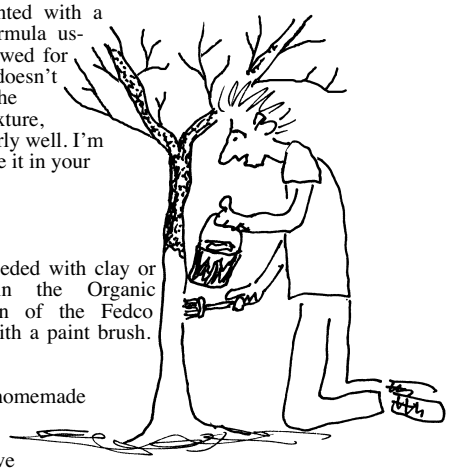


In many parts of central and northern New England the roundheaded appletree borer (*Saperda candida*) is **the number one enemy** of young **apple**, **crabapple** and **quince** trees. If you are growing young apple trees in these locations, you must protect your trees from this pest. Farther south and north the borer *may* not be a pest. If you don't know if they are a problem in your area, check with any grower near you: they'll know. Otherwise, err on the side of caution. The borer does not endanger other fruit trees or ornamentals.

The borer beetle lays its eggs under the bark near the base of the tree. The developing larvae tunnel through the wood, eventually weakening the tree until it crumbles and falls over. The trouble sign is small deposits of orange sawdust, called frass, at the base of the tree, usually appearing in June or July. Left unchecked, borers usually mean death for your trees.

Borers thrive in shady moist warm environments. Keep grass back at least 6" from the tree base. Activity is most prevalent in June and July. Keep a lookout for the frass. Locate the hole or soft spot in the trunk and insert a wire until you locate and kill the larvae. Cut away soft, spongy pockets with a knife. Even serious carving is less harmful to the tree than leaving the larvae alive inside.

After years of experimentation, I think that **painting is the best deterrent**. I've tried a number of recipes and this is my favorite. It's easy and requires no hard-to-find ingredients. Mix white *interior* latex paint with joint compound. (The stuff you smear on sheet rock joints and nail holes—you can buy a small tub at any hardware store. Some exterior paint formulations contain ingredients that can harm the underlying phloem.) The consistency should be thick but still quite easy to paint, not glob on. Repaint periodically or each year as needed. This mix will help deter borers. It will also make for easy detection of any infestation you may have. Look for the frass! Using the paint method, you will also need to put some sort of screen or plastic rodent protector around the trunk during the winter months.



This year we experimented with a new borer-protection formula using only ingredients allowed for organic certification. It doesn't last or adhere as well as the paint-joint compound mixture, but it appears to work fairly well. I'm hopeful. And, you can use it in your organic orchard.

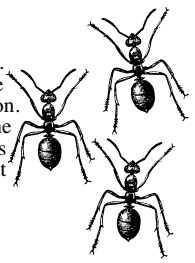
2 qt quick lime
4 gal milk
1 gal linseed oil

Mix well. Thicken as needed with clay or Surround (available in the Organic Growers Supply section of the Fedco Seeds catalog). Apply with a paint brush. Reapply as needed.

For many years I used a homemade "screen saver" wrapped around the young trees to deter borers. No more. I've given up and switched to the paint method. I recommend you do too.

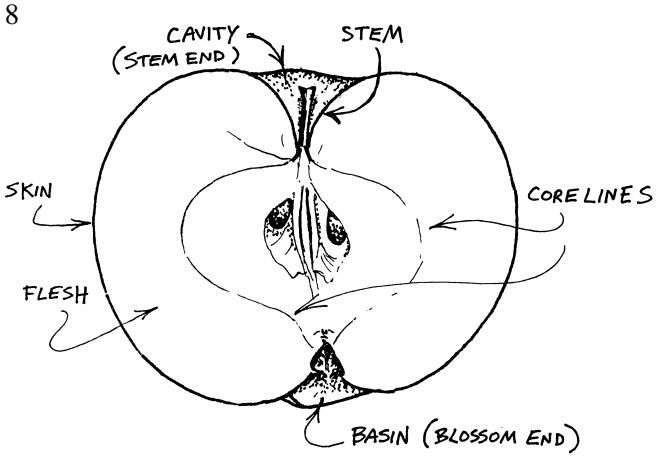
Aphids and ants

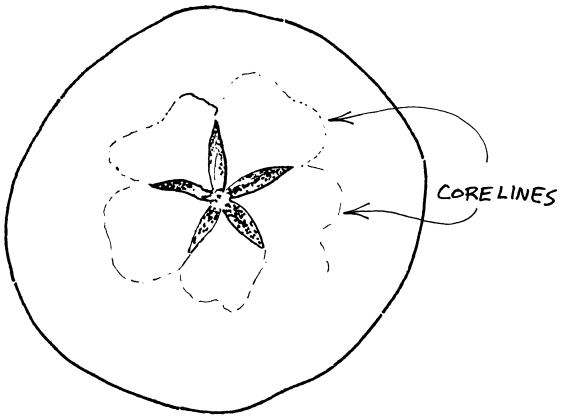
This year was a biggy for aphids on apple trees. They can do a lot of damage and they make the young leaves look gross. Here's an easy solution. Wrap a piece of stiff paper about 6" wide around the trunk about a foot or two off the ground. Tape this "sleeve" toitself but not to the tree. Smear tangle foot on the paper. In a day or two no more aphids.



Choosing the right apple!

Item	Name	Zones	Suitable for Coldest Spots	Season	Uses	Best apples for All–Around	Fall Eating	Storage	Cooking	Pies	High Flavor	Cider
0028	Ashmead's Kernel	4-7		winter	dessert			●			●	●
0045	Baldwin	4-6		winter	all purpose	●		●	●	●		●
0054	Beacon	3-5	●	fall	all purpose	●	●		●			●
0077	Black Oxford	4-5		winter	all purpose	●		●	●	●		●
0121	Canadian Strawberry	4-5		fall	all purpose	●	●			●	●	●
0127	Centennial	2-3	●	fall	all purpose	●			●			
0156	Chestnut	3-5	●	fall	all purpose	●	●		●		●	
0170	Cortland	4-5		fall	all purpose	●	●		●			
0176	Cox's Orange Pippin	4-6		fall	dessert		●				●	●
0201	Deane	3-5		fall	all purpose	●	●		●			
0216	Duchess of Oldenburg	3-4	●	summer	all purpose	●			●	●		
0220	Dudley Winter	3-4	●	fall	all purpose	●	●		●	●		
0245	Esopus Spitzenburg	4-7		winter	all purpose	●		●	●		●	●
0260	Fameuse	3-5	●	fall	all purpose	●			●		●	●
0272	Fletcher Sweet	4-6		fall	all purpose	●	●		●			
0291	Garden Royal	4-6		summer	dessert		●				●	
0310	Golden Ball	3-5		fall	all purpose	●			●			
0319	Golden Russet	4-6		winter	all purpose	●		●			●	●
0386	Honeycrisp	3-4	●	winter	dessert		●	●			●	●
0449	Kavanagh	4-6		fall	all purpose	●	●		●			
0452	Keepsake	3-5	●	winter	all purpose	●		●			●	
0460	King of Tompkins County	4-7		fall	dessert		●					●
0475	Liberty	4-6		fall	all purpose	●	●					●
0515	Mantet	3-5	●	summer	all purpose	●			●		●	
0522	McIntosh	4-5		fall	all purpose	●	●		●			
0549	Milden	3-5	●	winter	all purpose	●	●	●	●	●		●
0564	MN 447	4-6		winter	dessert			●			●	
0605	Newtown Pippin	5-8		winter	all purpose	●		●	●	●	●	●
0621	Northern Spy	4-6		winter	all purpose	●		●	●	●	●	●
0727	Prima	4-6		fall	all purpose	●	●		●			
0743	Priscilla	4-7		fall	all purpose	●	●					●
0790	Red Gravenstein	4-8		summer	all purpose	●	●		●	●		
0829	Ribston Pippin	4-5		winter	all purpose	●		●	●		●	●
0851	Roxbury Russet	4-6		winter	all purpose	●		●			●	●
0918	Somerset of Maine	4-5		fall	all purpose	●	●		●	●		
0955	Starkey	4-5		fall	dessert		●				●	●
1017	Sweet Sixteen	3-6	●	fall	dessert		●				●	●
1106	Wagener	4-7		winter	all purpose	●		●	●			
1130	Wealthy	3-4	●	fall	all purpose	●	●		●	●		
1145	Wickson	4-8		fall	all purpose	●	●				●	●
1153	Williams Pride	4-7		summer	dessert							
1164	Winesap	4-7		winter	all purpose	●		●		●	●	●
1166	Winn Russet	3-5		winter	unknown			●				
1190	Wolf River	3-5	●	fall	cooking				●			
1214	Yellow Transparent	3-5	●	summer	cooking				●			





Apples

Malus spp. Some definitions: **Summer apples** ripen in summer, are crisp only for a short period, do not store well, and are often best for cooking. **Fall apples** store longer and are useful for a wide variety of purposes. **Winter apples** ripen mid to late fall, store well, and reach their best flavor after weeks, or even months, of storage. **Dessert apples** are delicious eaten raw. **Subacid** means tart! **Russet** or **russeting** is a skin texture (fairly common on apple varieties and characteristic of a few pears and potatoes) which looks and feels somewhat like suede. **Bloom** is a naturally occurring dust-like film on the skin of some varieties of apples, plums and grapes.

Each variety has a **climate range** where it will thrive and produce its best fruit. At the end of each apple description we list a range of zones. For example, Z3-4 signifies that this apple will reach perfection in Zones 3 and 4 and that we don't recommend it farther south even though it would be plenty hardy. Z4-6 means that this apple will reach perfection in Zones 4, 5 or 6. We suggest that you use this guide to select apples most appropriate to your area.

Choosing a variety: not every variety is right for you. It's not just about what tastes good. They all taste good to someone. It's a case of "different strokes for different folks." **All-purpose** apples are just that. They are good for a bunch of jobs. If I were planting just one tree, I'd start there. However if you're a history buff, consider the historical varieties and maybe plant one that originated nearby. If you don't eat many apples but love pies, go for the pie apples. If you're a dessert connoisseur, skip all the others and go for the highly flavored dessert varieties. Some are strictly for cider. Some are great to put out at the camp for summer use. Some are perfect for those who want fall fruit but don't have winter storage facilities. Others keep all winter and into the following summer. Read the descriptions and check out the chart on page 7. If you have a question about a specific variety, drop me an email. I'll try to help!

Some people wonder why **we graft our apples onto Antanovka standard rootstock**. Standard trees have deep, substantial—and therefore hardier—root systems. By selecting the varieties appropriate to your district, grafted on standard rootstock, you may well be planting a tree that will be picked by your grandchildren's grandchildren. Standard trees will grow to be large, but you can keep them trimmed. My largest trees are now about 25 years old. The tallest are still well under twenty feet.

Although standard-sized apple trees may be planted as close as 10-15' apart, they were typically planted 30' apart in 19th century orchards. We generally plant trees 20-25' apart with good results.

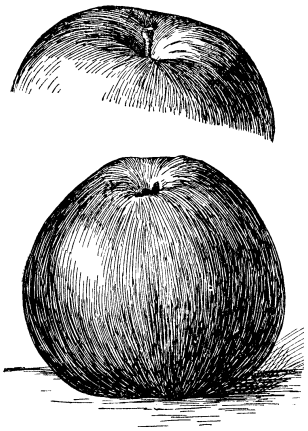
Apple trees are adaptable to a variety of soils and climates, though they prefer well-drained fertile soil. See pages 4-5 for information on soil preparation and planting. Varieties bearing annually are noted; others normally bear every other year. **All apple trees require a second variety for pollination**, but any apple or crabapple within a quarter mile will probably do. (We provide 3½ to 6' trees.)

ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop.

Ashmead's Kernel Winter. Unknown parentage. Gloucester, England, about 1700. Possibly a seedling of Nonpareil. An after-dinner apple of unparalleled quality. Not for those who like mild sweet apples. Each bite is an intense aromatic sting of sharp and sweet, with hints of other indescribable but absolutely wonderful tastes and aftertastes. This apple could be served as dessert at the fanciest gathering of your most discerning friends. Forget the pie crust, just serve the straight fruit. You might find yourself nibbling right down to the seeds! Makes a top quality hard cider, blended or alone. Medium-small oblate and lopsided orange-gold-green russet fruits. Ripens in October. Store until New Year's to reach perfection. Keeps until they're all gone. Moderately vigorous tree may bear irregularly, but it's worth the wait. Somewhat scab resistant. Blooms midseason. Z4-7. **ME Grown.**

0028 Ashmead's Kernel, $20.50

Baldwin Winter. Wilmington, MA, about 1740. Also called **Butters Apple** or **Woodpecker**. Discovered on the Butters Farm by a surveyor planning the Middlesex Canal and noted as a favorite site for local woodpeckers. Scions from the original tree were grafted and growing in Maine by 1810, and by 1850 Baldwin was the standard all-purpose home and commercial variety wherever it was grown. It remained dominant in Maine until the terrible winter of 1934 when tens of thousands of trees perished and McIntosh became king. Large round-conic thick-skinned fruit. Light yellow skin almost entirely blushed, mottled and striped with red and deep carmine. Hard crisp juicy yellowish flesh makes excellent eating and keeps till spring. Vigorous adaptable hugely productive long-lived healthy tree. When grower Dave Gott asked the late renowned entomologist Ron Prokopy his opinion of Baldwin, Ron replied that the apple is "not practical commercially due to biennialism but the *only* apple that is both disease and insect resistant." Hardiest in well-drained upland and north slopes. Massachusetts' most famous apple where it grows to perfection. Also extremely nice here in central Maine. Blooms early to midseason. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**



Baldwin.

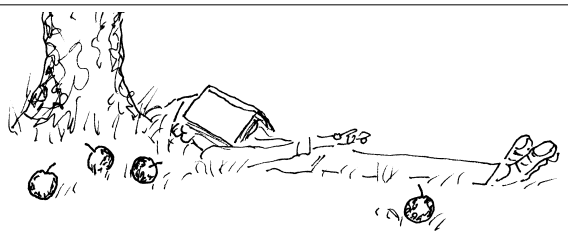
0045 Baldwin, $20.50

Beacon Late Summer. Malinda x open-pollinated. U of Minn, 1936. One of the first of the University of Minnesota introductions. Some years ago I asked orchardist Mark Fulford to share a list of his favorite apples. He described Beacon as the perfect apple for homeowners. While not the most crisp or flavorful, it has much to recommend it. I put it in my yard and soon became a fan. With minimal care, it will bear large crops of very decent, beautiful fruit almost every year. Mine is loaded again. 2-3" dessert-quality fruit does not all ripen at once. Bright solid rosy red—almost fluorescent—skin with prominent white dots. Tough skin, tender yellowish flesh that is unusual, mild, slightly sweet to subacid. Very nice tropical flavor—a combination of Cortland and Hawaiian Punch—for sauce, cider or dessert. Tree and fruit have resistance to disease and insects, particularly maggot fly and scab. Excellent pollinator. Blooms midseason. Z3-5. **ME Grown.**

0054 Beacon, $20.50

Black Oxford Winter. Unknown parentage. Paris, Oxford County, ME, about 1790. This outstanding apple, a favorite long ago around much of Maine, has been making a huge comeback in the last 20 years. Our best seller. Medium-sized round fruit, deep purple with a blackish bloom. From a distance you might think you'd discovered a huge plum tree. A 200-year-old Black Oxford tree still grows in Hallowell, and still bears large crops. Excellent pies, superb late cider. Leave the skins on for a delightful pink sauce. Best eating late December to March. They seem to get sweeter and sweeter as the months go by. Good cooking until early summer. Some insect and disease resistance. Unusual light pink blooms, late to midseason. Z4-5. **ME Grown.**

0077 Black Oxford, $20.50



Not Far from the Tree: A Brief History of the Apples and the Orchards of Palermo, Maine, 1804-2004.

By John Bunker, 200 pages, 8½ x 11, softcover.

Palermo is one of countless typical New England towns where for ages nearly everyone lived on small diversified farms. Although the area was never famous for its apple production, every farm had an orchard, some with just a dozen trees, others numbering a hundred or more. Over the past thirty-five years, I've spent hundreds of hours exploring the orchards of Palermo and listening to stories from the old-timers. Here is my account of those experiences. Generously illustrated with my drawings, including maps of the orchards and detailed diagrams of the historic varieties themselves. We will donate $5.00 from the sale of each book to the Palermo Historical Society. Will also be available from the Organic Growers Supply section of the Seed catalog. –JB

7509 Not Far from the Tree, $22.00

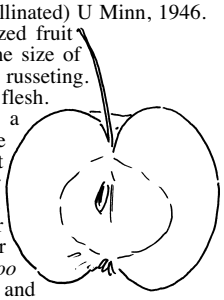
Canadian Strawberry Fall. Unknown parentage. Possibly Solon, ME. Magnificently beautiful superb-tasting dessert apple. Very tasty early season cider. Perfectly ripe at the end of September in central Maine when, in a good year, you won't find a better apple. In 2002 we put Canadian Strawberry up against Cox's Orange Pippin and Chestnut crab at the Common Ground Fair and it beat both of them. Surprisingly juicy distinctly tart full-flavored medium-to-large fruit. Round to conic with a tendency to have a convex stem end. Rich buttery-yellow skin with some green beneath, overspread about 50% with a veil of stripes and spots of vibrant red-orange. Roy Slamm, whose farm in Solon has three ancient trees, introduced it to me many years ago. Not mentioned in any literature as far as I know. Medium-sized upright tree. Bears annually. Does not keep well. Blooms midseason. Extremely rare! Z4-5. **ME Grown.**

0121 Canadian Strawberry, $20.50

Centennial Late Summer. MN 1472 (Dolgo x Wealthy). U Minn, l957. An unusually high-quality very small eating crab with a long stem and oval shape. About the size of a small plum or two really large blueberries stacked end to end. Or maybe a Fireball candy that got slightly smushed. Outstanding fresh eating. Next time you go for a long drive, leave the Fireballs behind and bring along a bag of Centennials to pop in your mouth. Shiny smooth mottled red-pink-orange-yellow skin with a thin purplish blush. Tender crisp juicy slightly spicy tart light orange flesh. Not sweet. Good in sauce too. Productive naturally small compact tree named in honor of Minnesota's admission to the Union in 1858. Highly scab resistant. Blooms early. Z2-3. (stock ranges from 3-6') **ME Grown.**

0127 Centennial, $20.50

Chestnut Early Fall. MN 240 (Malinda x open-pollinated) U Minn, 1946. A lot of people love this apple. Small golf-ball-sized fruit with truly excellent fresh eating qualities. Twice the size of Centennial. Yellow and bronze-red skin with some russeting. Firm crisp juicy fine-grained very sweet yellowish flesh. The apple version of Sun Gold tomatoes. For a growing number of people in central Maine, late September is Chestnut apple time. Every year we put out a bushel a day at the Common Ground Fair Fedco booth and watch them disappear. Neophytes often look at the fruit with disdain. Most however take one bite and their frowns turn to smiles. (For some, despite its crispness and depth of flavor, it is *too* sweet.) Chestnut needs no sugar to make a sweet and subtle sauce. Not a keeper, but can be stored for a month or so. Vigorous, somewhat weeping, medium-sized productive tree. Disease resistant. Also beautiful in bloom, midseason. Z3-5. **ME Grown.**



0156 Chestnut, $20.50

Cortland Fall-Winter. (Ben Davis x McIntosh) NY Stn, 1915. A cross between two commercial giants at the time, one (Ben Davis) on the way out and the other (McIntosh #**0522**) on the way in. Although never as important as McIntosh, Cortland remains a very popular apple throughout northern New England even in this era of many new introductions. Medium to medium-large slightly ribbed dull red fruit with a purple blush. Excellent eating and cooking. Slow-oxidizing white flesh is very good in salads; fine-grained, crisp, tender, juicy. Produces a surprisingly delightful cider, fresh or fermented, in a mix or even on its own. Vigorous tall upright spreading tree with reddish bark. Annual producer of heavy crops. A recent U. Mass. study showed resistance to apple maggot fly. Bears young; remove fruit for the first year or two to avoid stunting growth. Blooms midseason. Z4-5. **ME Grown.**

0170 Cortland, $20.50

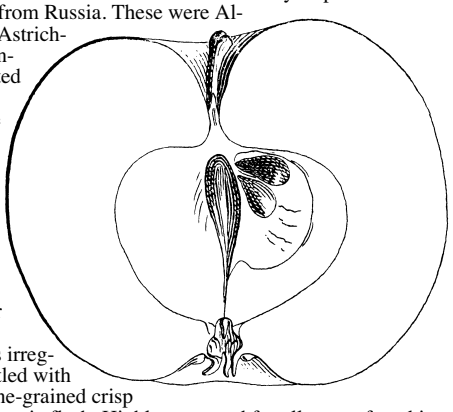
Cox's Orange Pippin Fall. Possibly a seedling of Ribston Pippin. Near Slough, Bucks, England, around 1825. Deservedly one of the most famous of all apples. Not only one of the best eating apples ever but also the parent of many other great varieties. Medium-sized all-purpose aromatic fruit is red-orange to red with russet striping and wash. Perfectly balanced slightly subacid flavor and crisp juicy tender flesh improve with storage. Moderately vigorous moderately productive tree bears young and annually. Prefers cooler climates and higher pH (6.5-7.5+). Scab resistant. Blooms midseason. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

0176 Cox's Orange Pippin, $20.50

Deane Fall. Unknown parentage. Cyrus Deane farm, Temple, ME, late 19th century. Also called **Nine Ounce**. An heirloom all-purpose variety once popular from Orono to Bath, now all but vanished. Our scionwood comes from Michael Rothchild's orchard in Phillips, just nine miles from Temple. Michael and Wendy asked me to identify an apple in their orchard a couple of years ago. The samples I took back to Palermo that afternoon matched the Deane description to a "D". The medium roundish oblate fruits even weighed 9 ounces apiece. Looks a bit like a cross between Northern Spy and Duchess. Maybe it is? Light yellow skin mostly covered with red blush and short "Spy"-pink stripes. Slightly lobed. Fine-grained white tender juicy subacid fruit. Melting with the consistency of a Mac but no scab. Z3-5. **ME Grown.**

0201 Deane, $20.50

Duchess of Oldenburg Late Summer. Russia, 17th c. Also called **Duchess**. In 1835 the Massachusetts Horticultural Society imported the first of many apple varieties from Russia. These were Alexander, Tetofsky, Red Astrichan and Duchess of Oldenburg. Duchess was planted extensively wherever growers needed extreme hardiness and is still quite popular in most of northern New England. Aroostook County's favorite apple. Thought to be a parent of the famous Canadian variety New Brunswicker and parent of Dudley Winter (#**0220**). Medium-sized round red-striped fruit is irregularly splashed and mottled with crimson. Yellow firm fine-grained crisp tender juicy subacid aromatic flesh. Highly esteemed for all sorts of cooking, makes a pie with a tart flavorful zip; Duchess is one of the best pie apples for coldest districts. Prolific precocious small to medium-sized adaptable tree. Scab resistant. Blooms early. Z3-4. **ME Grown.**



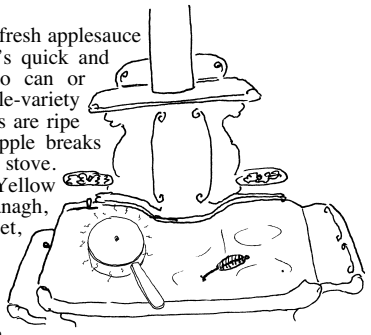
0216 Duchess of Oldenburg, $20.50

Dudley Winter Fall. (Duchess x Hyslop Crab) Castle Hill, ME, about 1877. Also called **Dudley** and **North Star**. The story goes that orchardist John Wesley Dudley's daughter Grace planted seeds from a Duchess tree pollinated by a Hyslop crab. The resulting seedling became the most widely planted new variety in the North at the turn of the previous century. Probably the most well-known Maine apple outside the state. Medium-sized roundish slightly flattened fruit is vibrant, shiny buttery yellow, overspread with radiating red stripes and splashes. Firm but tender, juicy aromatic subacid flesh for fresh eating and cooking. In northern areas—where it reaches its prime—it also keeps into winter. Small vigorous spreading drooping tree crops annually and begins bearing young. Our scionwood comes from a small abandoned orchard just north of Castle Hill. Extremely hardy. Blooms early-mid. Natural semi-dwarf. Z3-4. **ME Grown.**

0220 Dudley Winter, $20.50

Fresh Applesauce

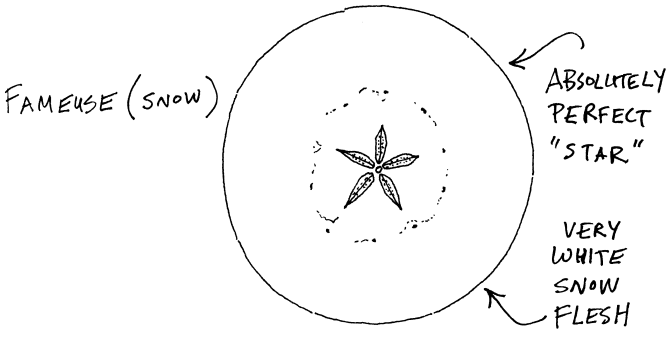
From August to May I make fresh applesauce several mornings a week. It's quick and easy, so there's no need to can or freeze. I like to make single-variety sauces, using whatever apples are ripe and handy. A good sauce apple breaks down in a few minutes on the stove. My favorites include Yellow Transparent, Duchess, Kavanagh, Golden Ball, Fletcher Sweet, Baldwin and Black Oxford.



Core but don't peel 2-4 apples per person. Cut into pieces. Cook in a saucepan for 3-5 minutes over medium heat in a small amount of water. No need for sugar or spices. Serve with oatmeal, cereal, yogurt or plain.

Esopus Spitzenburg Fall-Winter. Unknown parentage. Esopus, NY, 18th century. Without peer in flavor and quality. A choice dessert and culinary apple, mentioned in nearly every list of best-flavored varieties. Slightly subacid, crisp and juicy. Famous for being Thomas Jefferson's favorite apple. For years I figured that meant it was a warm-weather tree and shouldn't be in the catalog until I learned that Tom was forever frustrated by his inability to grow Spitz down south. Medium-large bright-red round to mostly conic fruit, covered with russet dots, not unlike a slightly more conical Starkey. Excellent acid source for sweet or fermented cider. Moderately vigorous tree, with easily-trained wide-angle branches. Bears moderate crops. Susceptible to scab though I don't spray mine and have been happy with the fruit quality. Blooms mid to late season. Z4-7. **ME Grown.**

0245 Esopus Spitzenburg, $20.50



Fameuse Early Fall. Unknown parentage. Canada, before 1700. Also called **Snow**. Excellent eating, sauce and cider apple. The 1865 Department of Agriculture yearbook sums it up: "Flesh-remarkably white, tender, juicy…deliciously pleasant, with a slight perfume….No orchard in the north can be counted as complete without this variety;…it is just so good that everybody likes to eat of it; and when cooked, it is white, puffy, and delicious." Medium-small roundish ruby-red thin-skinned fruit. Tender snow-white flesh, aromatic, juicy, sweet and tart. Famous in Maine for over 150 years. Still found in Maine dooryards and orchards. Keeps until late December. Thought to be a parent of McIntosh. Upright-spreading rather vigorous moderately tall very productive long-lived tree. Susceptible to scab. Blooms mid-late. Z3-5. **ME Grown.**

0260 Fameuse, $20.50

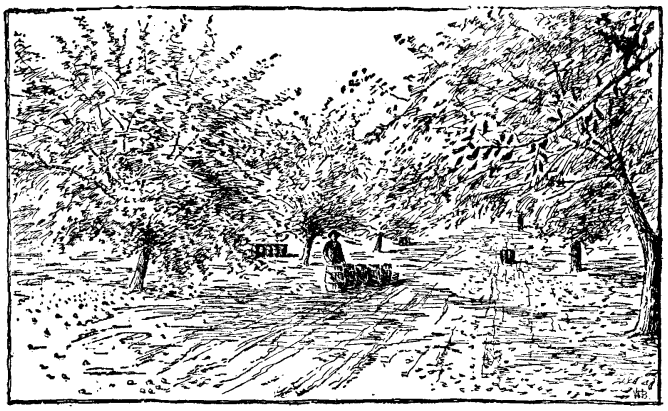
Fletcher Sweet Fall. Unknown parentage. Jonathan Fletcher farm, Lincolnville, ME, 19th c. Medium solid green fruit looks like Tolman Sweet but with a russet netting and an occasional orange blush. Very white crystalline flesh with a slightly green tinge. Although called 'Sweet' it lacks the classic sweet apple taste. Rather it's refreshing, mild, incredibly juicy and very crisp without being hard. Snaps when you take a bite. The texture reminds me of an Asian pear, a water chestnut, or maybe a perfect radish. Dissolves in your mouth. Makes a light loose yellow sauce, light textured with a hint of blackberry. Discovered in the fall of 2002 with the help of Lincolnville historians Rosey Gerry and Diane O'Brien and then-79-year-old Lincolnville farmer Clarence Thurlow who took us to the tree, an ancient nearly barkless hulk at the base of Moody Mountain, once Fletcher Mountain in what was long ago called Fletcher Town. Keeps until about December. No scab. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

0272 Fletcher Sweet, $20.50

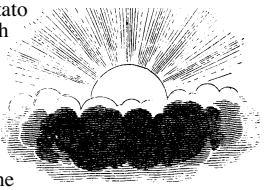
Garden Royal Late Summer-Early Fall. Unknown parentage. Sudbury, MA, about 1790. I still remember the first Garden Royal I ever ate, in Earland Goodhue's Sidney, Maine, orchard one September afternoon nearly 20 years ago. How could I forget? I thought I'd died and gone to heaven. Small to medium-sized round-conic fruit is deep red with prominent white dots. AJ Downing, in the 1860 edition of his *Fruits and Fruit Trees of America*, calls it "very tender, juicy, rich, vinous, aromatic, a beautiful and excellent fruit." Once extremely popular because of its exquisite sweet flavor and commonly found in farm orchards, it didn't fit the commercial orchard mold and fell out of favor. Medium-sized moderately vigorous rounded productive tree. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

0291 Garden Royal, $20.50

ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop.

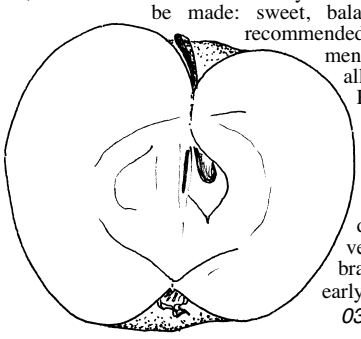


Golden Ball Fall. Unknown parentage. Norway, ME, 19th c. Truly a golden ball. Medium-large round-oblate rich glowing buttery-yellow fruit has undertones of green, like those on a potato exposed to the sun, and russet stem-splash and numerous tiny russet dots. Dense sweet yellowish flesh is firm but not crisp. Makes a superior sauce: fragrant, aromatic, soft textured, slightly tart, golden yellow. At least two varieties have been called Golden Ball over the years. The better known of the two originated in Connecticut. This one hails from western Maine. I found it through David Hutchinson who still has several old Golden Ball trees on his family's farm in Weld. David provided us with the scionwood for these trees. Z3-5. **ME Grown.**



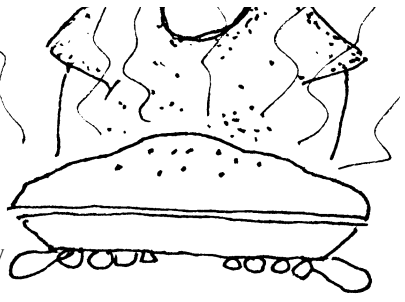
0310 Golden Ball, $20.50

Golden Russet Winter. Uncertain origin. Thought to be from England, New York or New England. The champagne of cider apples, ripening late in fall, when the root cellar has finally cooled off and the best cider is ready to be made: sweet, balanced, thick and smooth. Also recommended as a "sharp" acid source for fermented cider. Excellent eating; keeps all winter and well into spring. Round medium-sized hard fruit; uniform in size and shape, softens as winter progresses but maintains its superior sweet flavor. Solid deep yellow *golden* russeted skin! Medium to large vigorous diverging upcurving tree with silvery-green leaves on long willowy branches. Scab resistant. Blooms early to midseason. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**



0319 Golden Russet, $20.50

Good Apple Pie



The variety you choose for your apple pie makes a huge difference. A pie apple must have good flavor and retain its shape after baking. I have made single-variety pies with dozens of different apples, but only a select few made a good pie. My favorites, by season, include: late summer: Gravenstein and Duchess; fall: Wealthy and Somerset of Maine; winter: Black Oxford, Rhode Island Greening, Smokehouse and Scott's Winter. Avoid McIntosh unless you want "apple sauce in a pie." To find *your* favorite pie apples, try doing a "taste-off": have a party and bake 3 or 4 single variety pies. Give everyone a small piece of each, then vote. You'll be amazed at the difference between varieties. I generally make single-variety pies although blends are also good.

Use your favorite pastry recipe to make two crusts. Lay the bottom crust in a pie pan. Peel and slice several apples and mix with 2-3 Tbsp flour, 1 tsp cinnamon, 1/4 tsp cloves, 1/2 tsp nutmeg, and 1/2 cup sugar or 1/3 cup honey. Fill the bottom crust with the apple mixture. Cover with the top crust and decorate with any leftover pastry. I like to cut out apples shapes and put them on top. Punch several vent holes with a fork. Bake for 10 minutes at 400° then lower the heat to 350-375° for 40 minutes or until browned and bubbling.

Honeycrisp Winter. MN 1711 (Keepsake x open pollinated). U Minn, 1991. Medium-large fruit, described as "explosively crisp," mottled and striped red over yellow. Cream-colored flesh is sweet and juicy with hard snapping-crisp texture. Mild aroma and subacid flavor are top quality in September and improve steadily in storage. Unusual because it ripens in early fall yet keeps up to seven months. First of the many excellent University of Minnesota introductions to receive large-scale commercial attention, now has a huge following. Probably best planted north of Massachusetts; has not performed as well in warmer districts. Was always thought to be a Honeygold-Macoun cross until recent DNA testing at the U. Minn. revealed at least one of its real parents. The other is still out there on the loose. Tends towards annual bearing. Relatively small low-vigor upright spreading tree. Above average scab resistance. Blooms mid-late season. Z3-4. **ME Grown.**

0386 Honeycrisp, $20.50

Kavanagh Fall. Unknown parentage. Damariscotta Mills, ME, 1790. Also called **Cathead** because of its distinctive shape with large stem end tapering to a small calyx end, typical of Irish apples. A large apple you see once and never forget. About half russet and half deep rich lime green. Slightly yellow flesh is mild, moderately crisp, moderately tart, and subtle. Good for fall and early winter eating, excellent for cooking and drying. Foams up into creamy yellowish sauce, tart, tasty, medium-thick, a bit lumpy, no sugar necessary. The skin dissolves so there's no need to strain the sauce. Locally renowned shipbuilder James Kavanagh brought this apple from Ireland as a seed or maybe a small tree when he moved to Maine. We first gathered our scionwood with historian and Kavanagh enthusiast George Dow from what we thought was the last living tree. We've since discovered a half dozen more, one as far away as Freeport. Grows to be a huge long-lived tree. Blooms late. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

0449 Kavanagh, $20.50

Keepsake Winter. MN 1593 (MN 447 x Northern Spy). U Minn, 1979. A most aptly named apple. Keeps until July in the root cellar. Light yellow very fine-textured flesh is hard, crisp, juicy and sweet. Excellent aromatic flavor, but you must wait at least a month after picking. David Bedford of the Minnesota Horticultural Research Center said, "The completely unique flavor percolates up your nose.…If you can't stand the looks, just close your eyes when you eat it!" The irregular conic medium-sized fruit is almost entirely overlaid with stripes and a wash of very deep red. Moderately vigorous medium-sized tree usually bears annual crops. A northern grower on the North American Fruit Explorers (NAFEX) email discussion group called it, "My most agreeable, reliable, grower overwhelmingly friendly apple. I have to thin the whoopee out of it every year. Big fruit. Big taste. Keepsake! Keepsake! Keepsake!" Recently discovered to be one of the parents of the sensational Honeycrisp. Somewhat resistant to scab. Blooms late. Z3-5. **ME Grown.**

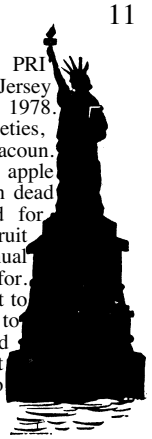
0452 Keepsake, $20.50

King of Tompkins County Fall. Unknown parentage, Washington, NJ, before 1800. Also called **King**, or **Tompkins King**. I recommend KTC for those who require sweet eating right off the tree in October and large juicy fruit to quickly fill the sauce pot or the home cider press. Even the experts and apple snobs never pass up King in October. They're good. They're also big. And the tree is productive. It's the "Honeoye" of the orchard, but nicer on the taste buds. Not overly weird or spicy. This is not a designer variety. Round-to-oblate blocky lumpy fruit, yellow almost entirely overlaid with dark orange-red stripes and blush. Crisp yellow flesh, tender, coarse with good to excellent balanced flavor. Annually bears a medium to heavy crop. Keeps until January. Gained recognition in New York's Tompkins County and later spread all over the Northeast becoming extremely popular as a home and commercial variety in the 19th century. Old trees still found here and there in Maine. Blooms midseason. Z4-7. **ME Grown.**

0460 King of Tompkins County, $20.50

Orchard Ladders

Sturdy lightweight traditionally shaped wooden orchard ladders have wide bottoms for stability and narrow tops for easy handling and placement.
Contact the manufacturer:
Peter Baldwin
207-722-3654
baldwin@acadia.net



Liberty Late Summer-Fall. NY 55140-19 [Macoun x PRI 54-12 (PRI Coop complex cross includes Rome Beauty, Jersey Black, McIntosh, Wealthy and *M. floribunda*)]. NY Stn, 1978. Often cited as the best of the disease-resistant varieties, particularly in the Northeast. Somewhat similar to Macoun. Handsome medium-sized round-conic bluish-pinkish-red apple with crisp white flesh of very good dessert quality when dead ripe. Excellent cooking and cider too. Recommended for single-variety cider. Keeps till late fall. Begins fruit production at an early age, bearing consistent heavy annual crops. Naturally well-structured sturdy tree is easy to care for. Considered to be 100% scab-immune, though not resistant to insects or other lesser apple diseases. Allowing Liberty to crop too heavily at a young age can stunt final tree size and reduce productivity. Even with mature trees, thinning fruit clusters is important to maintain fruit size. Blooms early to midseason. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

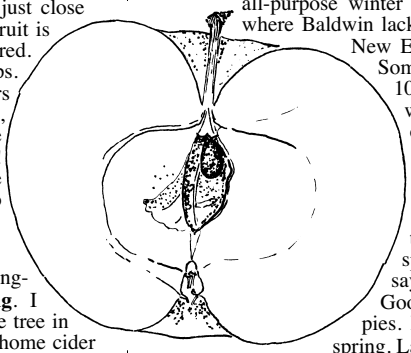
0475 Liberty, $20.50

Mantet Summer. Tetofsky x open-pollinated. Morden Sta, Manitoba, 1929. Thought to be a McIntosh and Tetovsky cross. Very high quality extremely hardy late summer variety for dessert and cooking, coming in late August in central Maine. Fine-grained juicy tender aromatic creamy white flesh with very good flavor. Medium-large roundish-truncated ribbed slightly lumpy fruit. Amber skin is washed with dark red streaks and blotches. In a recent email grower Don Johnson wrote to me, "First it has a wonderful bloom. Some people plant flowering crabs just for the bloom. I think Mantet is equal to any of them. Of the 100 apples that I have I can't think of any that are as nice. Second it is an annual heavy bearer. And for an early bearer…it keeps well, much better than Lodi or Yellow Transparent. Fourth it has a most pleasing apple flavor…After they taste it they all want to grow it." Upright hardy fast-growing productive tree. Z3-5. **ME Grown.**

0515 Mantet, $20.50

McIntosh Fall. Thought to be a seedling of Fameuse or perhaps St. Lawrence x Alexander. Dundela, Ontario, 1811. First discovered by John McIntosh on his farm near the St. Lawrence River in 1811. Originally called Granny's Apple, then McIntosh Red, sometimes Gem, and finally McIntosh. Certainly the most important apple in the Northeast. Although not planted in many other locations, it grows to perfection in our cool climate. There are many strains of McIntosh, some striped, some blushed, some solid red. Recent strains have been selected for traits other than flavor, and the variety has gotten a bad reputation. This strain has green ground color overlaid with red stripes and blush. It was planted in 1906 in Mercer, ME. Of all the strains we have sampled, this one has the best "Mac" taste. This is a delicious aromatic apple. Annual cropper. Large beautifully rounded spreading strong easily managed tree. Susceptible to scab but has shown resistance to apple maggot fly. Does not keep well in home storage. Blooms midseason. Z4-5. **ME Grown.**

0522 McIntosh, $20.50



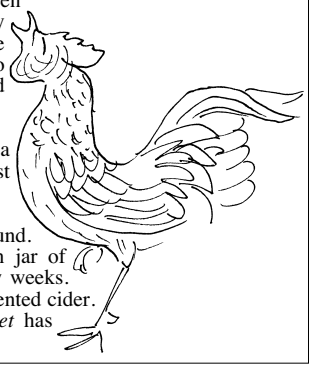
Milden Fall-Winter. Alton, NH, about 1865. Also called **Milding**. Old time all-purpose winter variety grown widely and with great success where Baldwin lacked hardiness. Once fairly common in northern New England and still found in old Maine orchards. Some years ago I received a wonderful letter from 101-year-old Eva Burgess of Sangerville who wrote, "I practically grew up in an apple orchard. My grandfather, Henry Leland, was an orchardist in Piscataquis County.…His main apple was Milding." Large oblate-to-conic fruit with a thin skin, mottled and splashed with bright red. The fine-textured whitish flesh, tinged with yellow, is coarse, juicy, both sparkly crisp and melting. Take a bite and first it says tart, but then it says sweet. Very pleasing. Good for eating and cooking. Famous for winter pies. Ripens late and keeps till late winter or early spring. Large vigorous tree. Z3-5. **ME Grown.**

0549 Milden, $20.50

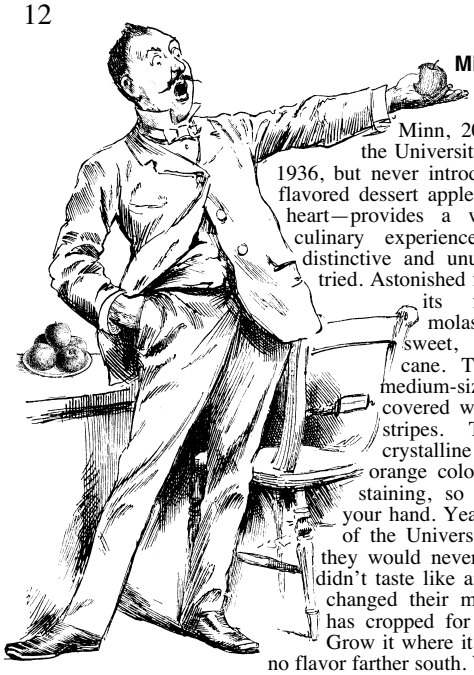
Sewall's Morning Elixir

Maine orchardist Bob Sewall has been making and selling top quality organic cider vinegar for years. He recommends the following tonic to boost health, wealth, immunity and sex appeal:

Put 2 Tbsp organic cider vinegar in a large glass of spring water. Drink first thing in the morning.



Recipes for apple cider vinegar abound. Easiest is simply to place an open jar of cider on the counter and wait a few weeks. More sophisticated recipes use fermented cider. Ben Watson's *Cider Hard and Sweet* has an excellent discussion and recipe.



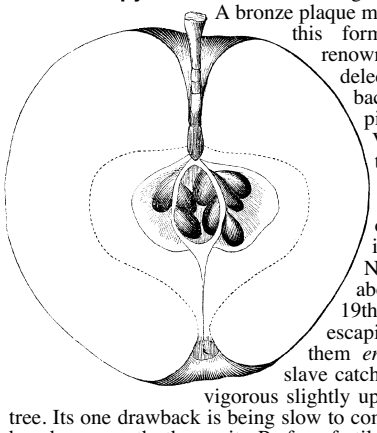
Minnesota 447 Fall-Winter. Malinda open pollinated. U Minn, 2007. Seed planted at the University of Minnesota before 1936, but never introduced. This massively flavored dessert apple—not for the faint of heart—provides a whole new level of culinary experience. Likely the most distinctive and unusual apple I've ever tried. Astonished friends have described its flavor as strange, molasses, olives, fabulous, sweet, complex and sugar cane. The roundish fruit is medium-sized and entirely covered with dark bluish-purple stripes. The aromatic crisp crystalline flesh is an apricot-orange color with occasional red staining, so juicy it'll run down your hand. Years ago David Bedford of the University of Minnesota said they would never release it because it didn't taste like an apple. Joyfully they changed their minds. My young tree has cropped for 5 years without fail. Grow it where it's cold as it may have no flavor farther south. Will receive a name in the next year or two. Any ideas? We're voting for 'Sugarcane'. Blooms midseason. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

0564 Minnesota 447, $20.50

Newtown Pippin Winter. Early 18th c, near Newtown, Long Island NY. Known as Albemarle Pippin in Virginia. Renowned dessert, culinary and cider apple. In 1817 William Coxe called it "the finest apple of our country, and probably of the world." A hundred years later U.P. Hedrick: "crisp, tender, fine-grained, juicy, sprightly, with fine aromatic subacid flavor; best." Rather large, roundish conical and lumpy in shape. Mostly light green, sometimes with a light orange-brown blush, turning clear yellow as the fall progresses. Although it may not ripen well in northern districts, the fruit I ate from Poverty Lane Orchards in Lebanon, NH, (Zone 4) was quite good. It's not hard to see why Ben Franklin brought a barrel to the queen. Productive tree bears young. Needs the best soil you've got. Scab susceptible. Some distinguish *Yellow* Newtown and *Green* Newtown varieties. Recently most agree that there is only one Newtown. Z5-8. **ME Grown.**

0605 Newtown Pippin, $20.50

Northern Spy Winter. Chance seedling. East Bloomfield, NY, about 1800. A bronze plaque marks the site of the original tree of this former commercial giant, still a renowned Maine favorite. Very large delectable all-purpose fruit has yellow background covered all over with pink and light red stripes and wash. Very juicy and tender. Even when the tender skin bruises, it keeps extremely well. There has been much speculation as to the origin of the odd name. Some maintain it was named after the legendary Northern Spy, a notorious hardcore abolitionist hero during the early 19th century who assisted slaves in escaping north, set up safe houses for them *en route*, and robbed and killed slave catchers. Medium-to-large moderately vigorous slightly upcurving late-blooming long-lived tree. Its one drawback is being slow to come into bearing, although for us it has been worth the wait. Prefers fertile well-drained soil. Good scab resistance. Blooms late season. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**



0621 Northern Spy, $20.50

Prima Fall. Coop 2 (PRI 1225-100=PRI 14-510 x NJ 123249). PRI Coop, 1970. One of the first disease-resistant varieties to hit the market and now one of the tried and true. Although other catalogs have dropped Prima in favor of newer "designer" varieties, we still think very highly of it. Medium-large roundish fruit has rich yellow skin with a striking orange-red blush. Resembles Jonathan which is buried somewhere in its convoluted parentage. Mildly subacid juicy white flesh provides excellent eating and makes good cider. Keeps a couple of months. Open spreading tree bears annually if kept thinned. Proving to be hardier than anyone thought. Scab immune; resistant to fireblight, cedar apple rust and mildew. Bears annually. Blooms early. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

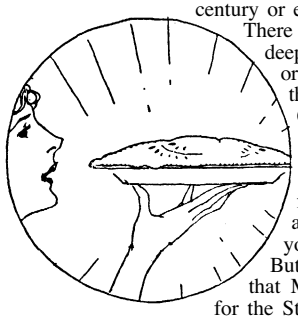
0727 Prima, $20.50

ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop.

Priscilla Fall-Winter. Co-op 4. PRI 1659-1= (Starking Delicious x PRI 610-2) PRI Co-op, 1972. (PRI 610-2 is a complex cross including Rome, *M. floribunda* 821, Golden Delicious and McIntosh.) Dark red conical scab-immune fruit with a very good crisp sweet flavor. The second variety released in the PRI (Purdue-Rutgers-Illinois) disease-resistance breeding program and still one of their best. Rarely found in catalogs anymore, perhaps because the patent ran out. This is as close as you get to the dreaded Red Delicious in a Fedco catalog. But no apologies, it's a very good dessert apple. I prefer it to Liberty. Richard Fahey, long time orchardist and tester of hundreds of apple varieties, wrote to me, "Priscilla is my top recommendation for a close-to-disease-free apple that bears *every* year. Priscilla should be on your list—great cider!" Very productive, you will likely need to thin your crop to boost the fruit size. Resembles Empire but without the scab susceptibility. Also resistant to sooty blotch. Will keep into mid-winter. Blooms midseason. Z4-7. **ME Grown.**

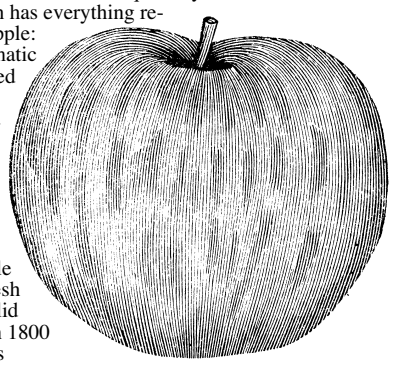
0743 Priscilla, $20.50

Red Gravenstein Late Summer. Uncertain Italian or German origin, 17th century or earlier. *The* most famous of all pie apples. There are numerous strains of Gravenstein. This deep solid purple-red strain can be found in old orchards in southern Maine. Mary Jones used this Red Gravenstein from Sweetser's Orchard in Cumberland to win the Maine State Pie Championship a few years ago. She told me it's "sweet but very hard to describe…real nice…full-bodied…wonderful flavor." Ripens earlier than most cooking apples, over the course of several weeks so you don't have to deal with them all at once. But they don't keep well. It's a minor miracle that Mary "somehow saved them until January for the State Championship." Also good for dessert and sauce. Large vigorous perfectly shaped tree. Easy to prune. Thanks to India Broyles and Bob Shafto for providing the scionwood from their ancient trees in Falmouth just up the road from Sweetser's. Triploid, will not pollinate other varieties. Blooms early. Z4-8. **ME Grown.**



0790 Red Gravenstein, $20.50

Ribston Pippin Fall-Winter. Unknown parentage. Ribston Hall, Yorkshire, England, about 1707. Distinctive and exquisitely flavored winter dessert and culinary apple. Ribston has everything required for the perfect dessert apple: it's firm, very crisp, juicy, aromatic and sprightly. The medium-sized round-conic fruit is visually stunning: partially russeted and covered with a blend of muted and glowing reds, browns, oranges, yellows and olive greens. Reminds me of a medieval painting of an old leather chest. Has such a high sugar content that it can be susceptible to watercore; sometimes the flesh appears to be saturated with solid sugar. Imported to Hallowell in 1800 by one of Maine's most famous horticulturists, Dr. Benjamin Vaughan, then spread quickly to all the apple growing regions of New England. Retains the distinction of being one of the only English apples to thrive in Maine, even as far north as Penobscot County. The probable parent of two superb apples, Cox's Orange Pippin (#**0176**) and Starkey (#**0955**). Keeps until midwinter. Medium-sized tree. Blooms midseason. Z4-5.**ME Grown.**



Ribstone Pippin.

0829 Ribston Pippin, $20.50

Green Chile Apple Pie
from Linda Canyon, a friend from out west!

6 green chiles, roasted, peeled, seeded and chopped
6-8 pie apples, peeled and sliced
1/2 cup sugar
2 Tbsp all-purpose flour
1 tsp grated lemon peel
1/2 tsp nutmeg
1/2 tsp cinnamon
Make your favorite crust. Combine apples, chiles, sugar and spices. Assemble pie and bake at 425˚ for 15 minutes. Lower heat to 375˚ and bake for 30-40 minutes more.

Roxbury Russet Winter. Roxbury, MA, early 1600s. One of the best late winter dessert apples. Renowned for juice and cider. Together with Baldwin and Rhode Island Greening one of the big three commercial apples in New England for most of the nineteenth century. Hard medium-large oblate-conic-angular fruit covered with greenish to yellowish-brown russet. Not uniform in size, shape or color. Flesh rich, spicy and juicy; not as sweet as Golden Russet. Keeps until late spring. Resistant to scab and mildew. In growing demand these days with the resurgence of interest in hard cider. The aromatic juice is recommended for both single-variety cider and blends, fresh or fermented. Medium-to-large vigorous spreading tree. Probably the first named American apple variety. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

0851 Roxbury Russet, $20.50

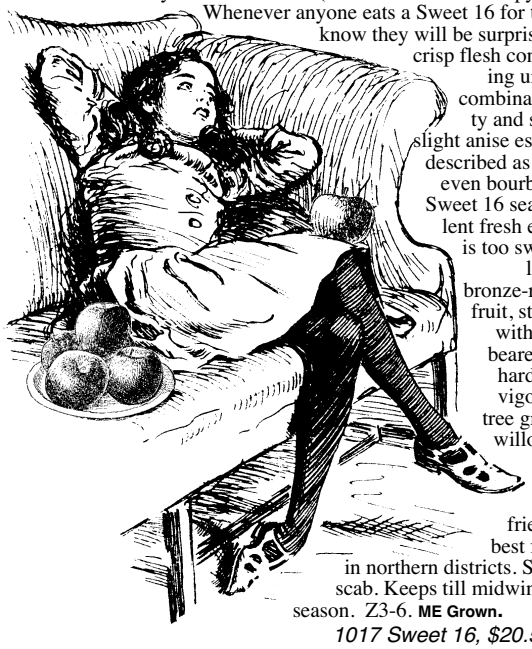
Somerset of Maine Late Summer-Early Fall. Unknown parentage. Mercer, Somerset County, ME, before 1850. Also known as **Somerset**. The late Edward Bobalek, fruit collector and Orono professor, described Somerset as a summer apple with the flesh and flavor of a winter apple. Large oblate all-purpose fruit has buttery yellow skin mostly covered with stripes and wash of a beautiful soft rusty red. Tender juicy subacid flesh. In the 1907 *Maine Agricultural Experiment Station Report*, WM Munson wrote, "It is an excellent apple and, when known, is highly prized as an early market variety." Makes a really good single-variety September pie. The fruit will keep into late fall. Very vigorous spreading tree. Still a local favorite here and there around the state. One of Mercer's several great contributions to the pomological world. (Another, of course, is 92-year-old Francis Fenton.) Blooms mid to late season. Z4-5. **ME Grown.**

0918 Somerset of Maine, $20.50

Starkey Fall-Early Winter. Seedling of Ribston Pippin. Vassalboro, ME, 1820. My favorite fall fresh eating apple, its exquisite combination of crisp sweetness and tartness reminescent of a perfectly ripe Concord grape. Similar in appearance and flavor to Garden Royal, Starkey has more tartness. If I had to pick between the two of them (I don't; I have both) I would pick Starkey. It's a larger apple, bears more regularly and keeps well into winter. I get into them beginning in late September, with perfect eating being just about Christmas. Still quite decent in late winter. Medium-sized roundish fruit is rosy red, covered almost completely with fine lines, shades and stripes of darker reds and sprinkled with pronounced white dots. Originated on the farm of Moses Starkey, a Quaker minister in North Vassalboro. Listed in *The Apples of New York* but never got much notice outside central Maine where it was once quite popular. A great apple. Annually bearing tough medium-large tree. Blooms early to midseason. Z4-5. **ME Grown.**

0955 Starkey, $20.50

Sweet 16 Early Fall. MN 1630 (MN447 x Northern Spy) U Minn, 1979. Whenever anyone eats a Sweet 16 for the first time, you know they will be surprised. Fine-textured crisp flesh contains an astounding unusually complex combination of sweet nutty and spicy flavors with slight anise essence, sometimes described as cherry, vanilla or even bourbon. I always love Sweet 16 season. Truly excellent fresh eating, although it is too sweet for some palets. Round-conic bronze-red medium-sized fruit, striped and washed with rose-red. Annual bearer if thinned. Very hardy moderate-sized vigorous vase-shaped tree grows upright with willowy branches that get loaded with fruit but do not break. Grower-friendly. Reaches its best flavor and texture in northern districts. Some resistance to scab. Keeps till midwinter. Blooms mid-season. Z3-6. **ME Grown.**

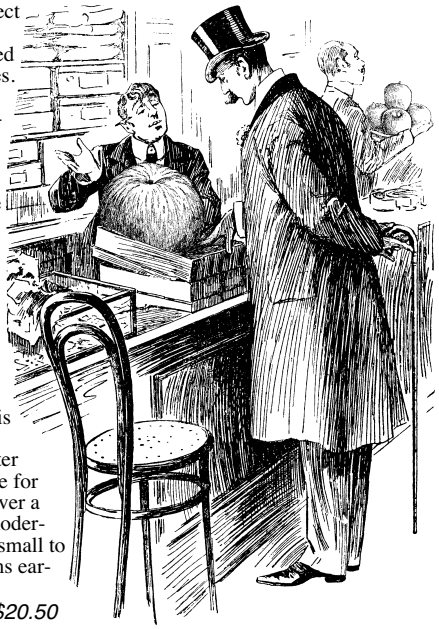


1017 Sweet 16, $20.50

Wagener Winter. Unknown parentage. Penn Yann, NY, 1791. Midwinter all-purpose storage variety widely grown in Maine during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Precocious annually-bearing tree produces very heavily. The fruit lines up along the branches so thickly you've got to look hard to see any wood. I had to thin two-thirds of the fruit off my tree last summer. Brightly colored medium-sized blocky angular ribbed roundish yellow apples mostly covered with a red blush of dots and stripes. Fine-grained crisp tender very juicy subacid aromatic sprightly flavorful fruit. Naturally small tree. Possibly hardy to Zone 3. Z4-7. **ME Grown.**

1106 Wagener, $20.50

Wealthy Fall. Cherry crab seedling. Excelsior, MN, 1860. A Maine native of sorts, the seed having come from Bangor. Superb all-purpose fall apple, one of the most famous of all hardy varieties. With its perfect texture and complex flavors, Wealthy is considered to be one of *the* best apples. I agree. Our old friend, long-time orchardist Francis Fenton, believes Wealthy—not McIntosh—deserves to be the favorite commercial apple of northern New England. The trees his father planted in Mercer 102 years ago are still going strong. Round-oblate medium-sized fruit is pale greenish-yellow streaked with carmine. About as firm as McIntosh. Tender very juicy sweet subacid flesh is white, often stained red. Good eating and even better cooking! Good acid source for fermented cider. Ripens over a long period. Productive moderately vigorous long-lived small to medium-sized tree. Blooms early. Z3-4. **ME Grown.**



1130 Wealthy, $20.50

Wickson Fall. Spitzenburg x Newtown. Albert Etter introduction. Humboldt County, CA, 1944. Very small roundish blushed bright red fruit is crisp, juicy, tangy, spicy and very flavorful. About the size and color of a large cherry. "Pucker up!" was one recent taste test comment. Extremely high in both sugar and acid. Sugar level of the juice is around 25%. Highly recommended for dessert, juice, and as a "sharp" acid source in fermented cider. A recent favorite of mine, I now have a tree growing 30 feet from our front door. In September, the tree looks like a mass of cherries. Introduced by the unsung and generally unknown Albert Etter, one of the great 20th century plant breeders. His Fairfax strawberry is legendary, usually considered to be *the* best-flavored strawberry, although now apparently lost forever. (Fairfax was one of the parents of the beloved Sparkle.) Bears young, heavily and annually. Blooms early. Z4-8. **ME Grown.**

1145 Wickson, $20.50

Williams Pride Summer. Co-op 23 PRI 2845-1=(PRI 1018-101 x NJ50) PRI Coop, 1988. Probably the most popular summer apple among the newly developed disease-resistant introductions. It's actually crisp, which is rare that time of year. Deep solid purple roundish-conic irregularly shaped fruit, highlighted with areas of glowing rosy red and covered with a thin bloom. Light cream-colored flesh with red staining just under the skin is firm, crisp and very juicy, with a nice acidic blend of tart and sweet, reminiscent of Fameuse. Long ripening period means you don't have to eat them all at once. Vigorous annually bearing tree with some biennial tendency, well-shaped with strong right-angled branches that do not require careful training. Highly resistant to fireblight, cedar apple rust and sooty blotch, resistant to powdery mildew. Scab immune. Blooms early-midseason. Z4-7. **ME Grown.**

1153 Williams Pride, $20.50

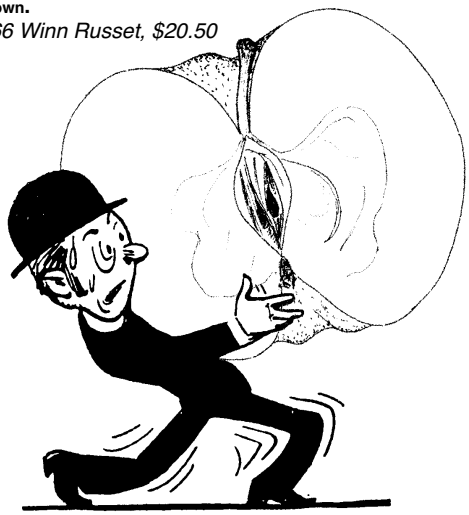
Winesap Winter. Uncertain origin, possibly western NJ. One of the oldest and most revered of all American varieties. True to its name, one of the best for cider. Although not normally associated with northern New England, over the years many old timers have told me about trees they remember from their youth. A couple of years ago I was fortunate to visit Jan Hogendorn's old central Maine orchard which includes an ancient Winesap. Later Jan wrote to me, "[It's] a colorful deep red apple, central to our cider making here in Vassalboro. Its size, smallish to medium, makes for easy crushing. Our trees bear annually and heavily, yielding exceptional amounts of rather tart and markedly reddish juice." The round-conic fruit is almost entirely covered with reddish blush and deeper red stripes sometimes with a prominent pinkish russet splash and some red russet netting. Also considered one of the best for pies. Our scionwood comes from Jan's tree. Adaptable to many soils and climates. Keeps until early spring. Z4-7. **ME Grown.**

1164 Winesap, $20.50

ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop.

Winn Russet Winter. Possibly a seedling of Roxbury Russet, Sweden, ME, 19th c. Large roundish fruit almost entirely covered with a rich orange-brown russet over a smooth greenish ground, accentuated with faint red radiating stripes and dots. Tart dry yellowish flesh, should make superior cider. Keeps until May. Developed by one of Sweden's first settlers, John Winn, who is thought to have grown it from seed brought with him from Massachusetts nearly 200 years ago. Our scionwood comes from an old *old* tree on an abandoned farm at the base of Winns Hill in Sweden which we located after a multi-year search with the help of Greg Marston, George Stilphen and others, as documented in the October 2006 issue of *Downeast*! Z3-5. **ME Grown.**

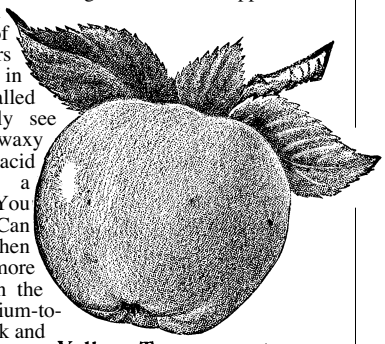
1166 Winn Russet, $20.50



Wolf River Fall. Alexander seedling. Near Wolf River, WI, 1875. Perhaps the most famous old-time apple in Maine, likely due to its catchy name and its extremely large—even huge—round-oblate fruit. Pale yellow-green skin mostly covered with pink, deep red and bright crimson. Almost always has a vivid yellowish-greenish russety splash around the stem. Creamy-white coarse firm-but-tender flesh. Aromatic subacid flavor is very good for cooking. Makes an excellent baked apple and a decent pie. Not much good for fresh eating, but particularly tasty when dried. I cut full slices right across the core and place them on a screen above the wood stove. They dry in a couple of days. Keeps until late fall. Large moderately vigorous productive spreading tree. Excellent scab resistance. Blooms midseason. Z3-5. **ME Grown.**

1190 Wolf River, $20.50

Yellow Transparent Summer. Imported from Russia, l870. Along with Red Astrichan, the classic northern New England summer apple. As ubiquitous as Duchess in Aroostook County. Heavy annual cropper of exceptionally early apples—some years as early as the first week of August in central Maine. Presumably called 'Transparent' because you practically see through the clear light yellow smooth waxy tender skin. White juicy sweetly subacid flesh. The soft ripe fruit makes a magnificent purée-type applesauce. You can leave the food mill on the shelf. Can be good fresh eating, but catch them when they're ripe because they don't keep more than a few days. Best about a day on the green side. Moderately vigorous medium-to-small upcurving tree with yellowish bark and foliage. Blooms midseason. Z3-5. **ME Grown.**



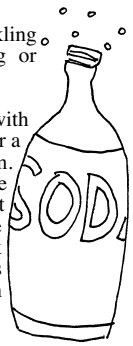
Yellow Transparent.

1214 Yellow Transparent, $20.50

Cider Soda

Here's an easy way to give your fresh cider a sparkling zing and preserve it indefinitely without canning or freezing.

Press cider. Fill clean two-liter plastic soda bottles with fresh cider. (We buy ours at the redemption center for a few cents apiece.) Leave about one inch of headroom. Screw tops on tight and store in a cool place. Serve any time. The longer the cider is stored, the fizzier it will be. When opening beware! The cider will be under pressure, so you'll want to open slowly, or risk getting a face-full and finding the cap 100 yards away. The bottles will expand after a while and on rare occasions may burst.



Where can I taste that apple?

While we pride ourselves with our variety descriptions, there's nothing like the real thing. No words can compare to the taste. Frequently I'm asked, "Where can I taste a ….?" Here are a few suggestions.

Maine:

Visit the orchards near you. Call the Maine Dept of Ag at (207)-287-3491 or visit them on-line at getrealmaine.com for a complete list of the orchards in Maine. Many have unusual varieties. Even one or two rare finds can be worth the trip. Below are a few orchards with wonderful collections. I'm sure there are others. Don't be frustrated if you call and reach no one. Just go. By September most of them are open 6 or 7 days a week.

- Ricker Hill Orchards, Turner, Androscoggin County (207)-225-5552, www.rickerhill.com. Organic apples and more. Collection of young heirlooms includes most of the Fedco list. Some should be fruiting in a year or two.
- Sweetser's Apple Barrel and Orchards, Cumberland Center, Cumberland County (207)-829-3074, www.maineapple.com. A great collection of old and new varieties. Their pride and joy is an ancient Rolfe tree. Don't miss it.
- Bailey's Orchard, South Windsor, Lincoln County (207)-549-7680. One of the largest collections of old varieties in the state.
- Lakeside Orchards, Manchester, Kennebec County (207)-622-2479, www.lakesideorchards.com. Organic apples and a good collection of mostly new varieties.
- Rollins Orchard, Garland, Penobscot County (207)-924-3504. A very good collection of unusual old varieties.
- Sandy River Orchard, Mercer, Somerset County (207)-587-2563. Francis Fenton's huge collection of 100 or more varieties.
- The Apple Farm, Fairfield, Somerset County (207)-453-7656. A great collection of unusual old and new varieties.
- Cayford Orchards, Skowhegan, Somerset County (207)-474-5200. 57 varieties of tree fruit.
- Greensweet, Unity, Waldo County (207)-453-4486. Call first, open weekends, over 50 varieties.
- Sewall's Orchard, Lincolnville, Waldo County (207)-763-3956, www.sewallsorchard.com. Organic apples including some of the first disease resistant releases.
- Dole's Orchard, Limington, York County (207)-793-4409, www.dolesorchard.com. Mix of old and new. They have two un-named varieties crossed by the late Maine plant breeder, Russell Bailey. Both are extremely rare, if not unique.

Other States:

I know a few orchards with good collections outside of Maine. If you know of any we should list, please let us know. An internet search could direct you to an orchard nearby.

- Nashoba Valley Winery, Bolton, MA. (978)-779-5521, www.nashobawinery.com. A large collection of old and new varieties.
- Tower Hill Botanic Garden, Boylston, MA (508)-869-6111, www.towerhillbg.org. The best collection of historic varieties in New England. At last count, 119 all labeled in an arboretum-type setting. A great place to study the fruit. Usually for sale at a special event over Columbus Day weekend. Call ahead.
- Hutchins Farm, Concord, MA (978)-369-2480. Nice collection of old and mostly newer varieties.
- Gould Hill Orchard, Contoocook, NH (603)-746-3811, www.gouldhill.com. Large collection of new and old varieties.
- Poverty Lane Orchards, Lebanon, NH (603)-448-1511, www.povertylaneorchards.com. Likely the best collection of unusual dessert apples in New England. One of the largest collection of cider apples in the U.S. They have all the cider varieties we sell.
- Alyson's Orchard, Walpole, NH (603)-756-9090. Although I've never been there, I've heard they have an extensive collection.

Cider Apples

Cider was the most popular drink in Britain and other parts of northern Europe for hundreds of years and in the eastern U.S. until well into the 19th century. It was almost always fermented. Over here, most cider orchards were composed of nameless seedling apples, although a few varieties such as Golden Russet and Hewe's Crab were recognized as premier cider apples. In England however, there is a long tradition of cider varieties. These are NOT for fresh eating; in fact, most taste terrible. Nor are they suitable for sweet (unfermented) cider, although some might add character to a sweet cider blend. However, they all possess qualities that make them very desirable for fermented cider production, and fermented cider is what we mean by 'cider'.

The National Fruit and Cider Institute in Long Ashton, England, evaluated about 2000 cider varieties, classifying them into four categories: **sharp** (low in tannins, high in acid), **sweet** (little or no tannin, low acid), **bittersharp** (high in tannins and high acid), and **bittersweet** (high tannins and sugar, low acid, astringent, said to make the highest quality cider). **Tannin** denotes naturally occurring compounds whose bitter astringency gives cider rounded full flavor, body, and golden color. The Cider Institute also applied the term **vintage** to those varieties that possess the perfect qualities for cider.

Bittersweets don't contain enough acid to make quality single-variety ciders. Cider needs a sharp apple to provide some acid. Cidermakers blend the bittersweets with bittersharps or high acid dessert apples. Among *the* most highly praised dessert apples with adequate acid levels for blending are Golden Russet, Esopus Spitzenburg, Roxbury Russet, Ashmead's Kernel, Wickson, Golden Delicious and Wealthy. Cider makers also tend to use what they have at hand: many other dessert apples—or even wild seedling fruit—may have plenty of acid to use in blends.

A well-planned cider orchard includes several varieties of each season, ripening in a progression through the fall. (It does no good to have an early bittersweet if none of your other varieties will be ripe until late October.)

Cider enthusiasts are growing many vintage apples that have been imported to the U.S. in recent years. In response to this renaissance, we offer some of the best varieties. Our thanks to Steve Wood of Poverty Lane Orchards and Farnum Hill Cider in Lebanon, NH, for providing us with piles of scionwood and ongoing advice for this project. Some cider apples are in short supply. If you plan to order more than a few trees and would like to discuss availability, call or send us an email. If necessary we can custom graft larger quantities of any of these varieties.

We recommend two books on cider making: *Cider Hard and Sweet* by Ben Watson and *Cider, Making Using and Enjoying Sweet and Hard Cider* by Annie Proulx and Lew Nichols.

All cider apples are on standard (Antanovka) hardy seedling rootstock. (We provide trees between 3 and 6' tall.)

Cider apple collection A package of seven trees to begin your cider orchard. We will choose two sharps or bittersharps and five bittersweets for each collection. The seven trees will include at least six different varieties, including some not listed here. **ME Grown.**

1270 Cider Apple Collection, bundle of 7, $126.00

Ashton Bitter Early Fall. Full bittersweet. (Dabinett x Stoke Red) Long Ashton, England, 1950s. Originally introduced by GT Spinks, Long Ashton's plant breeder. Resurrected from an old trial orchard and planted extensively in recent years. Medium-sized round opaque-orange-yellow fruit, blushed and striped with rich red. Very juicy and very astringent. A mix of half Ashtons and half a blend of Golden Russet, Nodhead, Stark and Golden Delicious produced a really nice clear amber dry tasty ever so slightly bitter cider in our 2005-6 trials. I was impressed. Ripens in early fall but we pressed in late October and the fruit was fine. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

1273 Ashton's Bitter, $20.50

Bramtot Fall. Bittersweet. Thought to be a seedling of the old variety Martin Fessar. France, mid 19th c. Brought to the U.K. by the Woolhope Naturalists Field Club in 1884. Small ugly conic green partially russeted fruit with a dull orange blush. Firm cream-colored quite bitter very astringent flesh with a very high sugar content. Horrible fresh eating but an excellent bittersweet for blending in cider. Not very well known and rarely included in the literature. Steve Woods of Farnham Hill Ciders called it "A lovely little apple with nice juice, interesting, aggressively tannic." Strongly biennial. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

1277 Bramtot, $20.50

Dabinett Late Fall. Medium bittersweet. Probably a seedling of Chisel Jersey, Middle Lambrook, Somerset, England. Most popular cider variety in Somerset today and the mainstay of Poverty Lane's cider orchard. At the MOFGA cider workshop, Steve Woods told us, "If you're going to plant one bittersweet, plant this one." Medium-sized roundish fruit covered with sooty brownish brick-red stripes and blush. Looks rotten even when perfectly firm and ripe. Dense astringent juicy flesh. Sugar content fair and fermentation moderate. High quality well-balanced low-acid cider with a soft-tasting tannin. Pick last week of October, blend with other late varieties. Crops regularly. Grower-friendly tree with a spreading drooping habit, may require help in developing a strong central leader. Not pollen compatible with Chisel Jersey. Midseason bloomer. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

1285 Dabinett, $20.50

Foxwhelp Fall. Bittersharp. According to Steve, the famous original 400-year-old Foxwhelp of yore has long disappeared from both sides of the Atlantic. Nor does anyone know the origin of this "new" Foxwhelp. Regardless, it is an excellent bittersharp. The largest cider apple I know. As big as a good-sized Cortland. Blocky-roundish shape with a chalky-greenish-yellow skin, light pink-red stripes and some blush. Distinctly ribbed. Very juicy and tart. Surprisingly makes for decent fresh eating. Blend it in the barrel with the fall bittersweets. Considered moderately vigorous and a good cropper. High specific gravity. Early-season bloomer. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

1293 Foxwhelp, $20.50

Kingston Black Fall. Bittersharp. Unknown parentage. Somerset, England, early 19th c. High in tannin and high in acidity. Produces full-bodied distinctively flavored vintage cider with a nice blend of acid, tannins and sugar. Ferment it alone or in a blend. One of the few varieties which makes a high-quality *single variety* hard cider.

We've become fans of Farnum Hill's tasty Kingston Black varietal. Medium-sized conical beautiful rich red fruit, mottled with red russet and deeper shades of maroon (but not black!). Fairly decent fresh eating. The tree is a reliable bearer, but is gangly and needs careful pruning. Blooms midseason. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

1301 Kingston Black, $20.50

Major Early Fall. Full bittersweet. Probably originating in central Somerset County, England, before 1900. Medium-sized somewhat attractive pinkish-red bulging-conic fruit with an obscure striped overlay. The flesh is soft, juicy and bitter. Combine with other early varieties. Vigorous tree with a good central leader and a spreading branching habit. Midseason bloomer. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

1309 Major, $20.50

Medaille d'Or (Gold Medal) Late Fall. Full bittersweet. Developed by a Mr. Goddard of Boisguillaume, Rouen, France. Introduced into England in 1884. Medium light yellow roundish fruit mostly covered with patches and netting of smooth tan russet. In the 1993 British text, *The Book of Apples*, Joan Morgan and Alison Richards write that it "produces sweet, heavily astringent juice and full bittersweet cider 'often high in alcohol, fruity and good quality'." Combine with other late varieties. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

1313 Medaille d'Or, $20.50

Michelin Fall. Medium bittersweet. Developed by Mr. Legrand of Yvetot, Normandy, France. Introduced into England in 1884. Named after a famous cider researcher. Small-medium conical ribbed pale green fruit dotted with russet and sometimes slightly blushed. Along with Dabinett one of the most reliable croppers. Medium-sized tree with upright multi-leader habit. Sweet astringent flesh and soft tannin juice, best for blending with other midseason varieties. Midseason bloomer. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

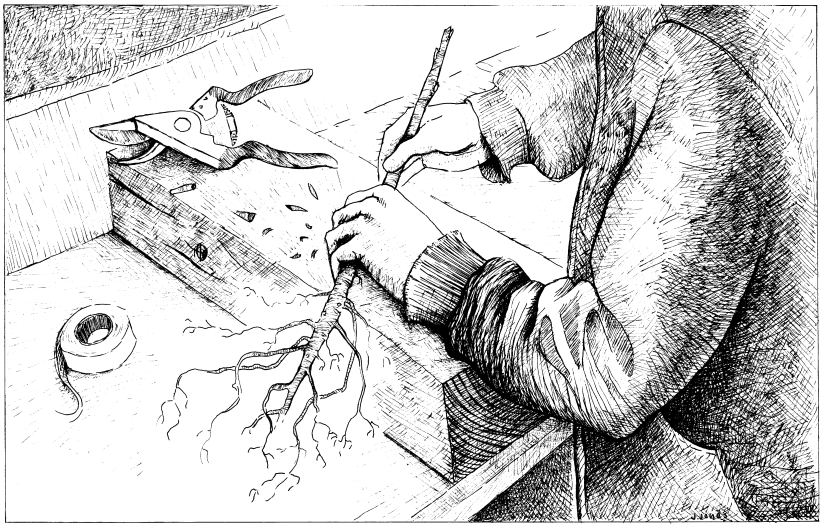
1317 Michelin, $20.50

Stoke Red Late Fall. Bittersharp. Also called Neverblight. May have orginated in Rodney Stoke or near Wedmore, Somerset, England. Medium-sized round-conic fruit covered with dark red radiating stripes that blend into a nearly solid glowing red and pink blush. Some russet dots and netting. Very attractive. Sharp juice with some astringency. Very sharp cider. Consistent heavy cropper and a reputation in the U.K. for resistance to pests and disease. (That's over there, mind you.) Late bloomer. Pick late in the fall and combine with other late varieties. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

1329 Stoke Red, $20.50

Yarlington Mill Fall. Medium bittersweet. Yarlington, near North Cadbury, Somerset, England, 1898. Once common in farm orchards of central Somerset. Steve's other favorite bittersweet. Medium-sized yellow conical fruit with a pinkish blush and over-spreading darker red stripes. Considered an all-round excellent variety, reliable, productive and adaptable to varying conditions. Rich brown low-acid mild lovely aromatic fruity cider, not aggressively tannic. Above-average sugar content. Slow to medium fermentation. Somewhat gangly tree with a lot of blind (non-productive) wood. You may need to head back the leader in early years to encourage strong laterals. Midseason bloomer. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

1337 Yarlington Mill, $20.50



Scionwood

We offer scionwood from a wide selection of fruit trees including many listed in this catalog. Price is $3.00 per stick (about 8") plus shipping. To order scionwood or rootstock for early shipment, send us a SASE requesting a scionwood order form or download it from the Fedco Trees website. Deadline for ordering scionwood and rootstock for early shipment is February 29, 2008. We will ship around March 26.

Hardy Rootstocks

We consider these to be some of the best rootstocks for home or commercial use. Any of these produces fruit suitable for wildlife without grafting. For rootstocks not listed, or for larger calipers or larger quantities, please write for information. We also offer grafting supplies in the Organic Growers Supply section of the Seed Catalog.

You may order rootstock to be shipped around March 26. To do so, use the scionwood order form obtained by requesting it with a SASE or downloading it from our website. Rootstock ordered on the regular order form in this catalog will be shipped with the rest of the Tree order in April.

Please join us Saturday, March 29, 2008, at the Maine Tree Crop Alliance annual scionwood exchange and grafting workshop in the exhibition hall of MOFGA's Common Ground in Unity. MOFGA also offers a full range of organic orcharding classes; see the MOFGA website for details.

***Malus* 'Antanovka'** (Apple) Hardy Russian seedling rootstock for standard-sized apple trees. Z3. (1/4" caliper)

1350 Malus antanovka , bundle of 10, $16.50

Malus 'Budagovsky 9' (Apple) Our favorite of all the dwarfing rootstock in our trials. Produces a tree about 1/4 the size of a standard tree, characterized by earlier ripening, higher productivity, higher levels of soluble solids and larger fruit size. Appears to be hardier than all other dwarfing rootstocks as well as many standard rootstocks. Not as hardy as Antanovka. Careful weeding, mulching, staking and irrigation all highly recommended. Space trees 7 1/2' apart in rows 14 1/2' apart. Z4 or perhaps Z3. (1/4"caliper)

1359 Malus Budagovsky 9, bundle of 10, $22.00

EMLA 26 (Apple) Produces a tree about half the size of a standard tree, in between the size of M9 and M7. Appears to be hardier than M7, producing better quality fruit. Adaptable to all but poorly drained soils, not as sensitive to mineral deficiencies as some rootstocks. Staking recommended in exposed locations. Z5, maybe 4. (1/4" caliper)

1370 EMLA 26 , bundle of 10, $22.00

Prunus americana (Plum) Seedling rootstock for American, Japanese or hybrid plums. Also recommended for grafting peaches. Seedling plum produces very decent 1" fruit without grafting. The best pollinator for hybrid plums. See explanation in plum section on page 19. Z3. (1/4" caliper)

1384 Prunus americana , bundle of 10, $16.50

Prunus avium 'Mazzard' (Cherry) The rootstock we use for grafting sweet and pie cherries. Shallow spreading root system. Longer lived than Maheleb though not as hardy. Does not do well in heavy poorly drained soils.

1387 Prunus avium 'Mazzard', bundle of 10, $16.50

***Prunus cerasifera* 'Myrobalan'** (Plum) Seedling rootstock for European-type plums. Not recommended for American or hybrid plums. Z4. (1/4" caliper)

1388 Prunus cerisifera 'Myrobalan', bundle of 10, $16.50

Pyrus communis (Pear) Seedling rootstock for pears. Exceptional resistance to pear decline. Good uniformity. Z4. (1/4" caliper)

1400 Pyrus communis, bundle of 10, $16.50

To contact MOFGA, the Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association, phone 207-568-4142 or go to www.mofga.org.

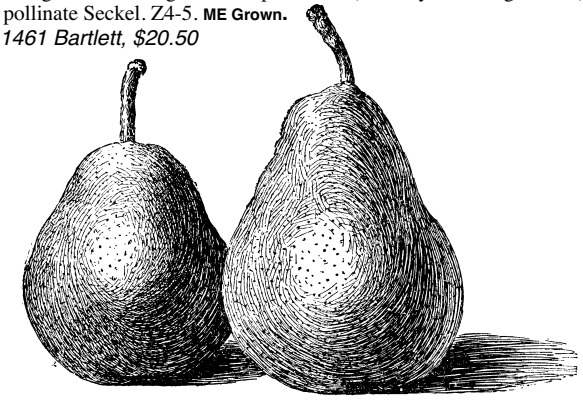
Pears

Pyrus communis are native to temperate Europe and Asia and can grow up to 100' tall in the wild. Many pear varieties are hardy in New England, but tend to take longer to come into bearing than apples. Further south, pears tend to bear annually. However in Maine, where they are approaching their northern limit and due perhaps to our harsher climate, pears tend to bear biennially. Pick fruit when green and ripen it on the shelf. Or, for optimal eating, try Ed Fackler's method: "...when fruits exhibit slight color changes, begin to test pressure (using your thumb) near the stem. When there is a slight "give," pick all the fruit, store at or near 35˚ for 7 or more days. Then remove them as needed, allow them to sit at room temps for 2-4 days which allows them to ripen to peak flavor."

Pear blossoms are less attractive to bees than apple blossoms, so pears should be planted closer together to ensure pollination. Although some pears appear to be self-pollinating, **we recommend a second variety for pollination**. Bloom dates for all varieties are similar. Plant pear trees 15-20' apart. (3 1/2-6' trees)

Bartlett Late Summer. (Williams' Bon Chrétien) Seedling found in Aldermaston, England. Introduced to the U.S. in the late 1700s. Most widely planted and well known of all pears, accounting for 75% of the U.S. commercial crop. Adaptable to many climates and soils. Large yellow classic oblong-obtuse-pyriform fruit; very good quality. Full reliable annual crops. Large vigorous easy-to-grow long-lived tree bears young. I used to think you couldn't grow Bartlett in central Maine, but I've changed my mind over the past few years. Now I recommend it as a good choice south of Bangor. Susceptible to fire blight, though that won't be up here until global warming catches up with us. (Thank you, George Bush.) Will not pollinate Seckel. Z4-5. **ME Grown.**

1461 Bartlett, $20.50



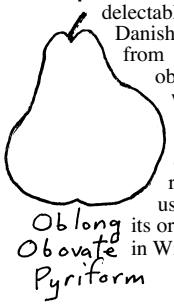
Bosc Fall. Seedling in Lourain, Belgium, 1807. Also called **Beurre Bosc**. Oblong acute pyriform, or large and long-necked; dark rich yellow covered with cinnamon-brown russet. Distinctive sweet rich spicy buttery flavor. Melting juicy tender white flesh has smooth texture and a pleasing aroma. Somewhat gritty around the core. Good pollinator. Large vigorous upright spreading tree bears huge crops annually. A longtime favorite throughout central Maine. Z4. **ME Grown.**

1474 Bosc, $20.50

Clapp Favorite Mid-Late Summer. Said to be Bartlett x Flemish Beauty. Dorchester, MA, before 1860. Very hardy pear common in Maine for over 100 years. Medium-large fruit is pale lemon yellow, mottled bright red. Round-bodied with a short neck. Obovate ovate slightly obtuse pyriform! Medium-firm fine-textured with granular center, very juicy melting sweet fruit with that absolutely perfect "pear flavor" for fresh eating. Pick before completely ripe and finish indoors (tendency to soften at the center after ripening). Our scionwood comes from an ancient tree on Earland and Helen Goodhue's farm in Sidney. Z4. **ME Grown.**

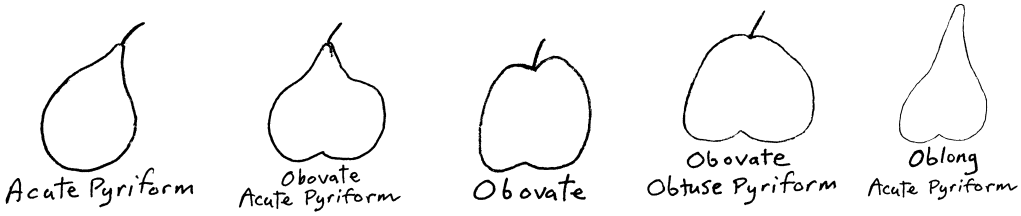
1488 Clapp Favorite, $20.50

Comptesse Clara Frijs Late Summer. Denmark, 19th c. Very old delectable dessert pear, first described in 1858 by JA Bentzien in the Danish garden journal *Dansk Haugetidende* and thought to be from the village of Skensved. Medium-sized yellowy-green oblong-obovate-pyriform rather thick-skinned fruit sometimes with a very slight pink blush—more like a spot of rouge. The buttery aromatic flesh is firm but not crisp with no grit cells. Juicy but not dripping. You can eat it in the car. You can eat it right down to nothing. Keeps for a month. Solid rugged hardy tree. Many thanks to Jim Ozzello for sending us an article on Clara Frijs. Now we have a clearer picture of its origins. Jim rates it in the top two of the 22 varieties he grows in Wisconsin. Z4. **ME Grown.**



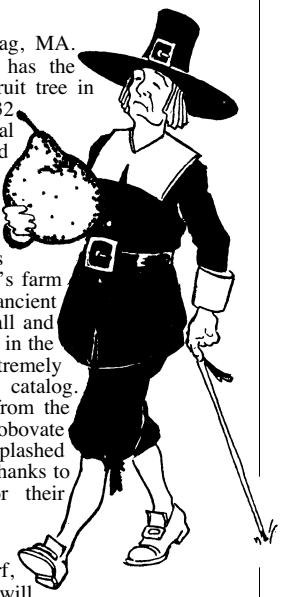
1496 Comptesse Clara Frijs, $20.50

ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop.



Dana Hovey Winter. Thought to be a seedling of Seckel. Roxbury, MA, about 1854. Introduced by nineteenth-century fruit enthusiast Francis Dana who dubbed it *Dana's Hovey* in honor of CM Hovey, Boston nurseryman and author of *The Fruits of America*. Sometimes called **Winter Seckel** because of its similarity to Seckel. Small obovate-obtuse-pyriform rich golden-yellow russeted fruit. Intensely sweet highly aromatic tender storage pear has excellent flavor; possibly the best eating of all winter pears. Keeps extremely well. Harvest in October and store in a cool dry spot. Still great eating in December—sometimes even as late as February. Hardy vigorous moderately productive spreading tree adapts to a variety of soils. No scab and relatively few bugs. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

1502 Dana Hovey, $20.50



Endicott About 1630. Orchard Farm, Naumkeag, MA. The incredible 380-year-old Endicott pear tree has the distinction of being probably the oldest living fruit tree in America. Planted from seed in either 1630 or 1632 by Puritan John Endicott, the first Colonial Governor of Massachusetts. Endicott was an avid gardener who grew hundreds of fruit trees on his 300 acre "Orchard Farm" in what is now Danvers, on the banks of the Waters River. By 1837 the tree was 80' tall and measured 55' in circumference. It has withstood terrible storms, horrendous vandalism, and periods of neglect. The Governor's farm is long gone, as are all his trees save this one. The ancient gnarled and twisted tree is now only about 15' tall and bolted together. Fortunately with the help of many in the Danvers area its survival seems secure. We are extremely pleased to be offering Endicott in this year's catalog. Though hard to believe, our scionwood comes from the *original* tree. Medium-sized roundish fruit (obovate obtuse pyriform) is greenish yellow, dotted and splashed with russet. I thought it tasted quite good. Many thanks to David Kayser, Richard Trask and others for their assistance. Z4-5. **ME Grown.**

1514 Endicott, $20.50

Kasper's Winter Late Fall-Winter. Frankendorf, Germany. Very good tough-skinned storage pear will keep until April in the root cellar. Coarse flesh with a good flavor. Very hard off the tree; don't eat it until a month after picking. Greenish-mottled medium-small pyriform fruit with some russet splashes or dots. Years ago this nameless winter pear found its way from the roadside near Frankendorf to Unity, ME. The name came later, courtesy of grower Howard Wulf who calls it "the latest keeping pear I've ever seen." Sturdy adaptable hardy tree. Precocious. Z4. **ME Grown.**

1538 Kasper's Winter, $20.50

Luscious Early Fall. (SD E31 x Ewart) SD State U, 1967. One of the few recent pear introductions that deserves a place in the home orchard. Produces annual crops of absolutely delicious medium-sized oblong-obovate-pyriform fruit. Bears so heavily that it's apt to break branches. The soft fine extra-juicy off-white flesh is sweet and flavorful with almost no grit cells. Thin yellowish skin is covered with small tan dots. Appears to be self-pollinating. Although some literature warns it will not pollinate other pears, I wouldn't exclude it from my orchard. Z3. **ME Grown.**

1547 Luscious, $20.50

Magness Late Summer. US 3866-E [Giant Seckel (SP149490) x Doyenne du Comice] USDA, 1960. Generally considered to be unequaled in flavor and quality. Rich, melting, buttery, juicy, sugary, tender, highly perfumed and aromatic with almost no grit cells. Renowned plant breeder Elwyn Meader rated Magness as the standard by which to judge other pears in taste and quality. Medium-sized fruit is greenish-yellow with a light dull-bronze russeting, sometimes a crimson blush, and a short pyriform—almost oval—shape. Vigorous spreading tree. Will not pollinate other varieties. Fruit set can be inconsistent. Some insect resistance and excellent fire blight resistance. Keeps more than two months with refrigeration. Z4. **ME Grown.**

1552 Magness, $20.50

Seckel Late Summer. Seedling near Philadelphia, PA, early 1800s. Sometimes called **Sugar Pear**. Usually considered the best-flavored of all pears; even the skin is delicious. Small obovate fruit is yellowish-brown russeted with slight red blush. Juicy, spicy, distinctive and aromatic. Eat ripe off the tree or pick firm and ripen later. Very productive annual-bearing large tree, easy to grow. *The* most reliably bearing fruit tree I have. Scab and fireblight resistant. Will not pollinate Bartlett. Z4. **ME Grown.**

1602 Seckel, $20.50

Stacyville Late Summer. Unknown origin. Stacyville, ME. Medium-sized obovate-obtuse-pyriform pears are light yellow with a beautiful orange to greyish-red blush. The sweet fruit has a delicious citrusy aftertaste. My tree began producing only a few years after planting. Now at age 16, it produces large crops of fruit annually. Many years ago friends told me about the pear and insisted that I make the trip to Stacyville in southern Aroostook County. When I finally saw it myself, I thought that the 50' tall vase-shaped tree was an elm. It was spectacular, dwarfing the surrounding apple trees. That tree, held together with cables, was extremely old but still bearing huge crops. I don't know if it's still standing. Appears to be self-pollinating. Disease resistant, extremely hardy and very vigorous. Rare. Z3. **ME Grown.**

1615 Stacyville, $20.50

Summercrisp Midsummer. MN N33201 (Gaspard No. 5), unknown parentage. U Minn, 1986. Brought to the Minnesota Horticultural Research Station by John Gaspard in 1933. Large obovate-acute-pyriform very sweet dessert and canning pear with green skin and a red blush ripens in August in Maine. A favorite of Donna and Chyp of Loon Song Farm in Hartland who bought one from us nearly 20 years ago and have been Summercrisp fans ever since. One reason Donna likes it is it comes on when you're looking for fruit, early in the season. "They're best crisp before they get supermarket soft." In fact, once they do soften, they go by fast. They eat them fresh, can them in quarters and juice the rest. The juice is so sweet, Donna told me she has to cut it with apple juice when she's canning it or it will get fizzy and explode. Precocious, annually bearing tree, medium-sized with typically conic habit. Long considered the hardiest variety in the Minnesota collection. Free from fireblight. Z3. **ME Grown.**

1620 Summercrisp, $20.50

Superfin Fall. Angers, France, 1837. Also called **Beurre Superfin**. One of the most delicious dessert pears of all time. According to U.P. Hedrick in his 1922 classic *Cyclopedia of Hardy Fruits,* its delicate and pleasantly perfumed flesh is "tinged with yellow, granular, melting, buttery, very juicy, sweet, rich, with brisk vinous flavor, aromatic." While perusing a friend's art collection, I came across a beautiful old color plate of a roundish blotchy dull-yellow pear with a short stubby neck, streaked and netted and cheeked with russet. The faint caption below said "Buerre Superfin". The shape reminds me of a Hershey's kiss. The large trees are healthy, productive and adapted to many soil types. Proving to be hardy in central Maine. Z4 or perhaps colder Z5. **ME Grown.**

1626 Superfin, $20.50

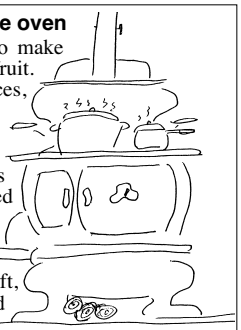
Tyson Summer. Jenkintown, PA, about 1794. Widely planted in Maine for generations. After years of looking for a good source of grafting wood for this pear, we finally located a huge ancient tree in nearby Freedom. Well over 100 years old, the tree has lived through all the great winters of the 20th century. The definitive 1921 text *The Pears of New York* calls Tyson's flavor "second only to Seckel," and says that the "tree is the most nearly perfect of any pear grown in America." Went out of favor because it was not as large or pretty as Bartlett. Medium-sized acute pyriform deep dull-yellow fruit with some russeting and no blush is very juicy, sweet and aromatic. Very large vigorous annually productive upright spreading tree. Tolerant of bugs, disease and weather. Fire-blight resistant. Rare. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

1638 Tyson, $20.50

Vermont Beauty Fall. Chance seedling. Grand Isle, VT, about 1860. Most of the high quality pears are rather drab ugly beasts. Vermont Beauty is an exception. The medium-sized obovate-acute-pyriform fruit is an alluringly attractive cheerful lemon yellow with a bright red blush that fades into pinkish-red dots. But don't let the good looks freak you out. The yellow-tinged flesh is tender, melting, smooth, dense, fine-grained and juicy, with very few grit cells. Excellent dessert pear that ripens after Seckel and keeps for 5 or 6 weeks. Medium-to-large healthy productive vigorous upright spreading tree. Susceptible to scab though I've seen none in my tree. Z4. **ME Grown.**

1645 Vermont Beauty, $20.50

Making pear sauce and applesauce in the oven

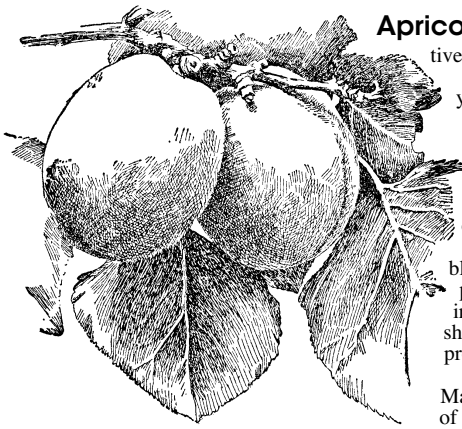


Tom Vigue learned from an old-timer how to make syrupy fruit sauces and butters by roasting the fruit. We love this recipe. It requires no sugar, spices, cream or ice cream.

Fill a large (or huge) roasting pan with whole pears or apples with only the stems removed, as long as the fruit is nice quality and doesn't need more trimming. Roast at approximately 350° for a couple of hours, checking occasionally to mash down any fruit before it scorches. After two hours or more, when fruit is soft, process through a food mill to remove skins and cores. At that point you will have a sauce. Return sauce to the oven and roast for a few more hours, depending on how concentrated you want it. A very concentrated sweet fruit butter eventually results without ever burning the bottom of the pan.

Stone Fruits

Prunus spp. are widely cultivated around the world and adaptable to most of New England. Not highly particular as to soils. **Clingstone** means the fruit's flesh clings to the pit (or stone) and a **freestone** pit drops away from the flesh.



Apricots

P. armeniaca are native to central Asia, cultivated there for about 4000 years, and only marginally adaptable to northern New England. Because their early blossoms are sensitive to cold spring weather, they are often planted with northern exposures to delay blooming. Large crops are possible, but uncommon, in Maine. The zone rating should be viewed as an approximation because much depends on your site. Many thanks to Bob Purvis of Minnesota who has been coaching us on apricot selection. We will have small quantities of other varieties available at the Tree Sale. Plant 15-20' apart. Both varieties we offer in 2007 are **self-pollinating**. (3½-6' trees)

Harogem Midsummer. HW405. (Rouge du Roussillon x NJA 2 [Morden 604 Open-pollinated]) Harrow Station, Ontario, 1979. We're offering Harogem this year in our ongoing effort to provide apricots for northern growers. Harogem may be hardy in tropical areas of Zone 4. We'll be offering more of the Harrow series in the future. Small-medium bright orange ovate fruit with a glossy red blush. Very firm moderately juicy freestone flesh has good flavor. Spreading productive tree with medium vigor and good disease resistance to brown rot and perennial canker. Somewhat resistant to bacterial spot. Z4/5.

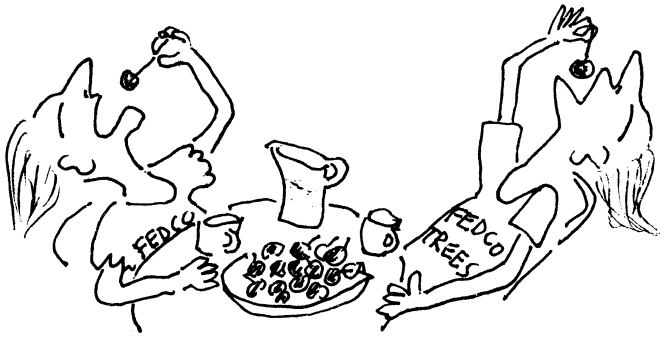
1788 Harogem, $20.50

Puget Gold Summer. Originally called Cougar Gold. Chance seedling, possibly of 'Perfection'. Discovered in Anacortes, WA, by Jean Copeland. U of WA intro, 1987. Large (1⅜-2") roundish-ovate clear yellow red-blushed fruit. Dense firm sweet deep orange-yellow freestone flesh is good to excellent fresh eating, drying or canning. Prolific. The blossoms are more frost-tolerant than those of many apricots; disease resistance is above average. Ripens relatively late, about September 1st in central Maine. Moderately vigorous spreading tree will grow to about 15x15'. Offered with the encouragement of Downeast (coastal) Maine grower Richard "Ozzie" Ossolinski: "Whereas not every PG that I have planted for clients has performed as well as those in my own orchard, I continue to recommend (and plant) it for those who are looking for a low (i.e. no) maintenance tree from which they might actually harvest some decent fruit." Warmer Z5. **ME Grown.**

1810 Puget Gold Apricot, $20.50

Sweet Cherries

P. avium are generally not hardy in Maine. Most grow into very large trees. We are currently testing some of the hardiest varieties and hope to have more of them available in upcoming years.



Stella Mid-summer. 2C-27-19 (Lambert x John Innes Sdlg. 2420). Canadian Dept of Ag Research Stn, Summerland, BC, 1968. The first hardy good-quality self-fertile sweet cherry. Large heart-shaped black-skinned fruit has juicy medium-firm black flesh. May be a disappointment to sweet cherry aficionados from the Northwest but could be like a dream come true for orchardists living in the warmer locales of Maine. Fruit buds are relatively tender. Upright spreading vigorous productive tree will grow to 25-30'. Self-pollinating. Z4. (3½-6' trees).

1910 Stella Sweet Cherry, $20.50

Pie Cherries

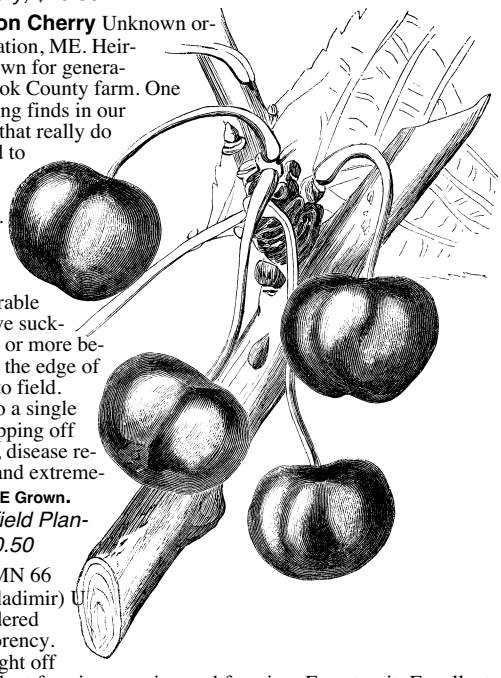
P. cerasus are called "sour," but they're delicious enough to eat right off the tree. They fruit in early to midsummer and don't mind heavy soil. They are especially good in pies. They are generally divided into two groups: Morello types have dark red spherical fruit, dark juice and relatively small compact trees. Montmorency (or Amarelle) types have light red slightly flattened fruit, clear juice and medium-sized somewhat open trees.

Pie cherries are significantly hardier than sweet cherries but can be frustrating to grow. Although the trees are fully hardy in Zone 3, flower buds may be damaged in colder winters. Some growers in Maine have reported large harvests only to have their trees die unexpectedly a year or two later. This year we've heard reports of some excellent crops so we know it can be done. We are currently testing several promising varieties including some local heirloom discoveries. Our hope is to find pie cherries that will be consistently healthy and productive. We are very interested in your successes and failures. If you have had experiences you think might be useful to others, please be in touch. **Pie cherries do not require another variety for pollination**. Plant 15-20' apart. (3½-6' trees)

Evans *Not available in 2008; hope to have back in 2009.*

Galaxy Pie Cherry Late Summer. Montmorency type. Recent introduction. Red fruit and clear juice. Similar to Montmorency but easier to manage with a naturally spurry stocky open growth habit. Bears heavy consistent crops. We purchased a bundle of these a few years ago on a lark and put them on trial. We have been very pleased with the results. Grower Delton Curtis eats the "sharp tingling" fruit right off the tree. "Once you get used to it, you can eat it right down." Z4. **ME Grown.**

1930 Galaxy, $20.50



Garfield Plantation Cherry Unknown origin. Garfield Plantation, ME. Heirloom pie cherry grown for generations on an Aroostook County farm. One of our most promising finds in our search for varieties that really do produce. Introduced to me by northern Maine friends a couple of years ago. Although the original tree is long gone, it lives on in the form of innumerable young trees that have suckered up for 100 feet or more behind the farm along the edge of the ubiquitous potato field. You could keep it to a single tree yourself by snipping off any suckers. Hardy, disease resistant, productive and extremely long-lived. Z3. **ME Grown.**

1932 Garfield Plantation, $20.50

Meteor Summer. MN 66 (Montmorency x Vladimir) U Minn, 1952. Considered superior to Montmorency. Very good eating right off the tree. Also excellent for pies, canning and freezing. Easy to pit. Excellent dried. Bright scarlet-red roundish-oval fruit. Clear bright yellow flesh and clear juice. Mildly acid flavor. Has proved to be our most consistent producer while also being very susceptible to brown rot in some locations. Ripens after Northstar: mid-July in Central Maine. Reaches 12-16'. Z3. **ME Grown.**

1935 Meteor, $20.50

Montmorency Summer. Seedling of Cerise Hative or Cerise Commune. Montmorency Valley, France, before 1600. Introduced to the U.S. about 1830. The most famous of all pie cherries. Not widely grown in Europe or Russia but long the standard of excellence in the U.S. Firm-fleshed bright red fruit makes a clear light pink juice. Although apparently hardy in northernmost Maine, some trees have died unexpectedly. Appears to be resistant to brown rot. Vigorous productive medium-sized upright-spreading tree tolerates a variety of soils. Parent of the fine variety Meteor. Z3. **ME Grown.**

1940 Montmorency, $20.50

Northstar Summer. MN 58 (English Morello x Serbian Pie #1) U Minn, 1950. Morello-type cherry can be eaten fresh when ripe. Large roundish heart-shaped fruit with a small stone. Dark glistening mahogany-red skin. Dark red meaty tender juicy flesh has pleasantly acid flavor. Very productive. A natural dwarf reaching 9-10'. Resistant to brown rot and cracking but may not be long-lived in many locations. Z3. **ME Grown.**

1950 Northstar, $20.50

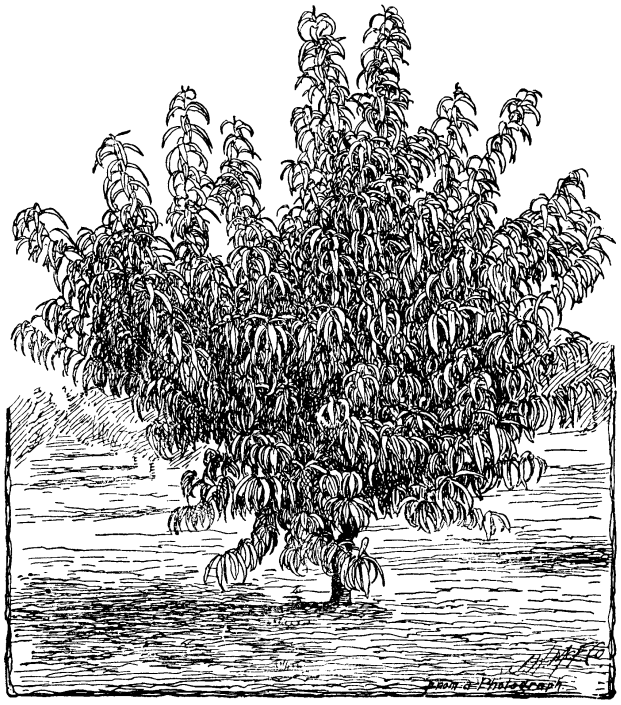
Peaches *P. persica* Although many people will tell you not to bother growing peaches in Maine, if you've been repeatedly saddened by the poor quality available in the supermarket, what's there to lose? Many trees in northern New England produce large crops. While these are certainly not like what you'd get in Georgia, they still taste awfully good. They bear young and so heavily that they may break branches if unthinned or unsupported. Peaches are usually unaffected by pests or diseases in northern areas. The trees may also die unexpectedly at any age. There are no truly hardy peach cultivars, although Reliance is considered the hardiest. **Peach trees do not need a second variety for pollination**. Plant 15-20' apart. Z5. ($3^1/_2$-6' trees)

Garnet Beauty Summer. Sport of Red Haven. Ruthven, Ontario, 1958. A mutation (sport) of Red Haven discovered by Garnet Bruner in 1951 and introduced seven years later. Medium to large yellow-fleshed semi-clingstone fruit with excellent flavor. Ripens 12 days earlier than Red Haven with similar hardiness. Vigorous and productive tree. Good bud hardiness. Recommended for colder disticts.

1978 Garnet Beauty, $20.50

Harrow Beauty Summer. HW 231 (Cresthaven x Harken) Harrow Station, Ontario Canada, 1983. Brilliant red and yellow, well-colored attractive fruit. Firm freestone yellow flesh. Ripens three weeks after Red Haven, about the same time as Madison. Considered to be as hardy as Red Haven and recommended for trial in colder areas. Tree about the same size as Reliance. Tolerant to perennial canker, bacterial spot and brown rot.

1984 Harrow Beauty, $20.50



Madison Summer. (Ideal x Red Haven) VA Station, 1963. A fine peach for the North, with hardiness similar to Red Haven. Medium-large fruit with bright orange skin and bright red blush. Orange-yellow firm fine-textured juicy flesh with excellent very sweet rich peach flavor. Very good quality. Skin peels easily. Freestone, excellent canner. Very productive tree. Exceptional tolerance to blossom-season frost.

1990 Madison, $20.50

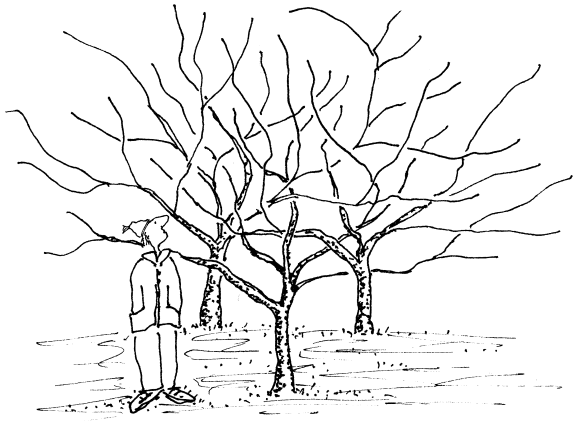
Red Haven Summer. (Halehaven x Kalhaven) MI Ag Exp Station, 1940. Considered hardy, but not as hardy as Reliance. Medium-sized round fruit with beautiful red and golden-yellow skin and sweet firm fine-textured yellow flesh. Non-browning. Excellent for eating, freezing, canning, shipping. Probably the best-flavored peach we offer; also the world's most widely planted freestone peach. Hardy buds; vigorous highly productive disease-resistant spreading trees are tolerant to bacterial spot.

2005 Red Haven, $20.50

Reliance Summer. Open-pollinated seedling of Minn PHO 4559 x Meredith. NH Ag Exp Station, 1964. Considered the hardiest peach. Medium-sized, roundish, freestone. Rather dull red blush over greenish yellow. Bright yellow flesh, soft and juicy. Flavor usually considered fair, but those who grow it in Maine love it. Often produces large crops. Bears at an early age. Appears to be resistant to peach leaf curl in our trials. **ME Grown.**

2010 Reliance, $20.50

ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop.



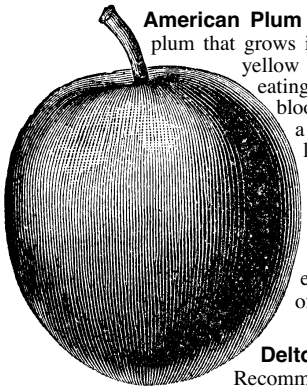
THE INTERTWINING HYBRID PLUM JUMBLE MEANS MORE FRUIT IN SEPTEMBER

Hybrid Plums *Prunus* spp., are extremely hardy crosses between various Asian plums and American species for hardiness.

Hybrid plum pollination has been glossed over—or avoided—in virtually all catalogs and fruit-growing literature for generations. Some years on our farm we get decent crops, but most years we don't get nearly enough. We have tried a number of different strategies as Fedco catalog readers will know. We still recommend planting the trees close enough together for the branches to "co-mingle." However a recent article by Rick Sawazky of the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan, may provide the breakthrough we've all been searching for:

"Most writers have overlooked or significantly understated the pollination requirements for growing good plum crops. The exception is George F. Chipman who edited the *Prairie Gardener* for many years and who wrote about plum pollination in 1934. He summarized a study done by Prof. W.H. Alderman at the University of Minnesota by saying, '…very few hybrid plums would accept pollen freely from other hybrids, but they all accept pollen from native plums.'"

Our own suspicions, as well as our experiments, appear to corroborate this view. Simply by planting native plum pollinators among the hybrids, it may prove possible to produce large regular crops with very little effort. Hooray! Of course, plums are still susceptible to the small pesky insect, plum curculio. But PC is not difficult to control organically with Surround (see the Organic Growers section of the Seed Catalog). And, with decent pollination, Surround may not even be necessary. Toka, South Dakota and Kaga are often recommended as the best pollinators. We also recommend planting *Prunus americana* or *P. nigra* seedlings in the orchard as pollinators. Stay tuned for more developments. Bloom times similar for all varieties. Not susceptible to black knot. ($3^1/_2$-6' trees)



American Plum Seedling *P. americana* 15-20' Seedling plum that grows in thickets and produces very decent red, yellow and orange 1" fruit, suitable for fresh eating, canning and freezing. Spectacular white bloom in spring. Red fall color. Plant singly as a graceful specimen or plant 2-3' apart and let the branches intertwine for maximum pollination. May be the best pollinator for hybrid plums. See above. We are looking for stands of pure *P. americana* or *P. nigra* seedlings. If you know of any, please let us know! Plant one of these for every 3 or 4 plum trees, within 10' of each of them. Extremely hardy. Z3. **ME Grown.**

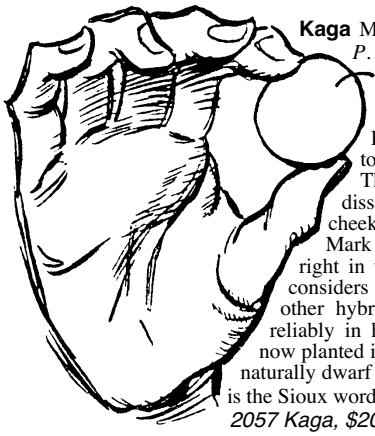
2028 American Plum Seedling, $20.50

Delton's American Plum *P. a.* 15-20' Recommended pollinator for hybrid plums. These trees are grafted from selections of thicket plums in Dexter, ME. Grower Delton Curtis has had good luck using these as pollinators for hybrid plums, although they may not be pure *P. americana*. Plant one of these *or* one of the *P. americana* seedlings (#**2028** above) for every 3 or 4 hybrid plum trees, within 10' of each of them. See the explanation above. Extremely hardy. Z3. **ME Grown.**

2029 Delton's American Plum, $20.50

Gracious Late Summer. Mandan 41-15 [open-pollinated seedling of Emerald (*P. salicina* Burbank x *P. a.* Brittlewood) probably x Red Wing (*P. sal.* Burbank x *P. a. mollis* Wolf)]. Northern Great Plains Field Station, Mandan, ND, 1957. Oval-to-roundish yellow-orange fruit with coral-red mottling. Yellow-orange firm juicy sweet flesh. Freestone. Although there are still many plums I've yet to taste, this one rates with Purple Heart as one of my two favorites. A supremely excellent fresh-eating plum. Even with a heavy crop, it's hard to have any left over for its excellent sauce or jam. Upright spreading tree. Rare. Z3-4. **ME Grown.**

2051 Gracious, $20.50



Kaga Mid-Late Summer. *P. a.* seedling x *P. simonii*. NE Hansen introduction. SD Stn, 1909. Small 1" purple-black fruit. Good eating out of hand when they're dead ripe. Exceptional in jams and jellies due to the meatiness of the black flesh. This is not one of those plums that dissolves and dribbles down your cheek. The most profuse bloomer in Mark Fulford's plum collection, coming right in the middle of plum season. Mark considers it to be an excellent pollinator for other hybrid plums. It's also been bearing reliably in his Monroe, ME, orchard. I have now planted it and will test it in Palermo. Dense naturally dwarf tree grows only to about 10'. *Kaga* is the Sioux word for 'pitch a tent.' Z3. **ME Grown.**

2057 Kaga, $20.50

Kahinta Mid-Late Summer. Luther Burbank's *P. sal*. Apple x *P. a*. Terry. SD, 1912. Introduced by the great plant breeder NE Hansen using the same parentage as another excellent plum, Waneta (**#2117**), and similar to it. Large 1 1/2" roundish slightly pointed fruit, flattened at the stem end. Tart brilliant red-purple skin and tart but quite flavorful translucent yellow-orange flesh. Easy to peel; peeled fruit looks like a peeled tangerine. Or you can bite a small hole in the skin and suck out the juicy flesh. Clingstone. Very good for fresh eating or canning. Medium-sized spreading tree. Kept pruned, my 20-year-old tree remains about 8' tall. Bears more reliably than most other varieties in my orchard. *Kahinta* is the Sioux word for 'sweep.' Rare. Z3/4. **ME Grown.**

2060 Kahinta, $20.50

La Crescent Late Summer. (Shiro x *P. a*. Howard Yellow) U Minn, 1923. Also known as **Golden La Crescent** or **Golden Minnesota**. Most of the hybrid plum varieties are colored with some variation of red and orange with a little purple tossed in. Yellow-skinned La Crescent is one notable exception. The beautiful roundish tender thin-skinned yellow fruit is sometimes blushed with a little pink. Tender yellow juicy flesh of excellent quality is sweet, aromatic and suggestive of apricots. Freestone. Upright spreading vigorous tree. Z3. **ME Grown.**

2064 La Crescent, $20.50

Purple Heart Late Summer. Unknown parentage, from Enfield, NH. Brought to the great plant breeder, Professor Elwyn Meader, by a man who passed away before Meader could ascertain its origin. Becomes a favorite of anyone who grows it. Medium-sized fruit with red-purple skin and flesh, and a delicate but full sweet flavor. The most delicious plum we grow. You'll have to fend off ravenous neighbors when the Purple Hearts are ripe. Flowers are able to withstand spring frosts. Excellent shape, easy to pick, productive and healthy tree. Shows tip damage following colder winters. Not as hardy as other hybrids. Has shown susceptility to black knot in our orchard. Z4-6. **ME Grown.**

2085 Purple Heart, $20.50

South Dakota Late Summer. SD 27. (Unknown parentage, probably *P. a.* or *P. sal*. x *P. a*.) U Minn/SD Ag Exp Sta, 1949. Because of its long flowering period and American parentage, we recommend South Dakota as a pollinator for hybrid plums. In my orchard it's still blooming when the other plums have dropped their flowers. Small to medium-sized fruit has tough yellow skin with bright red blush. Medium-firm yellow flesh is meaty, juicy, sweet. Freestone. NE Hansen developed it sometime before 1907, and one of his students took it to the breeding program in Minnesota where it was later introduced. Vigorous tree. Z3. **ME Grown.**

2096 South Dakota, $20.50

Superior Late Summer. MN 194 [*P. sal*. 'Burbank' x 'Kaga' (*P. a.* x *P. sim*.)] U Minn, 1933. Very large conical dark red plum with a heavy bloom and 'superior' dessert quality. Firm sweet yellow flesh is smooth textured, extremely juicy and clingstone. Very good fresh eating. During the terribly cold wet summer of 2004 when a number of my younger plum trees were hammered with brown rot, my Superior came through unharmed. I was impressed. Precocious production, vigorous tree. Z3/4. **ME Grown.**

2100 Superior, $20.50

Toka Late Summer. *P. a.* x *P. sim*. (Chinese apricot plum). Intro by NE Hansen, SD Exp Stn, 1911. Rosy red fruit, up to 1 1/2" in diameter, mottled with darker purply red and covered with a faint bloom. Grower Don Johnson's comment was, "Talk about flavor: candy plum." Ed Fackler called Toka the best-flavored plum he grew in his Indiana orchard. Sweet, distinctive, meaty and flavorful. Not real juicy. Extremely vigorous tree blooms heavily every year. Diligent pruning may be required to keep it from becoming a bit of a monster. Considered to be a good pollinator for other hybrid plums. Z3. **ME Grown.**

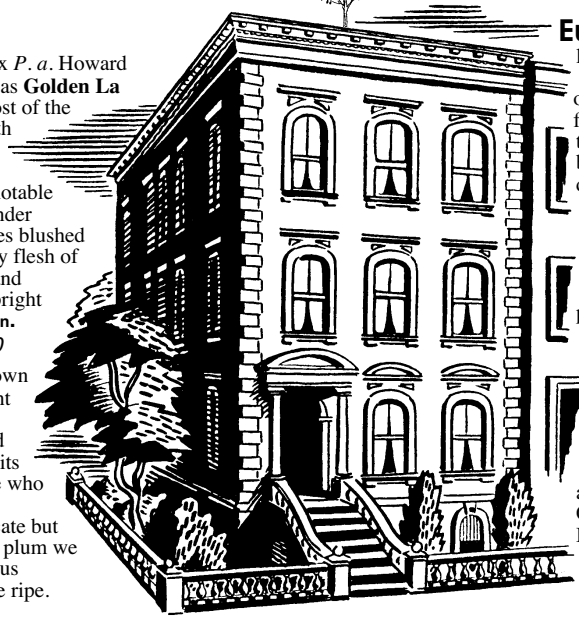
2108 Toka, $20.50

Underwood Midsummer. MN 91 (Shiro x *P. a*. Wyant). U Minn, 1920. Medium to large 2" fruit. Yellow skin with dull red overcoat. Firm sweet juicy golden-yellow freestone flesh, good for eating and cooking. Northern Maine grower Steve Miller considers it to be one of his most reliable bearers. Long picking season. Vigorous large spreading tree blooms early. Z3-4. **ME Grown.**

2112 Underwood, $20.50

Waneta Midsummer. (*P. sal*. Apple x *P. a*. Terry) NE Hansen intro, SD Exp Stn, 1913. Released one year after Kahinta, and with the same parentage, when hybrid plums were an important and commercially viable crop. Named after a Yanktonai youth who won fame in the War of 1812 and later became a great chief. Large 1 1/2-2" reddish-maroon fruit, slightly less pointed than Kahinta (**#2060**). Sweet tender translucent orange flesh is very juicy but not dripping. Medium-thick skin, tart and easy to peel. Delicious overall taste. Hansen said of Waneta: "My belief is that in this variety I have combined the best points of the native and the Japanese plum. It is probably the largest [fruit] of over 10,000 seedlings." Early-blooming healthy open spreading tree bears reliably in our orchard. Z3. **ME Grown.**

2117 Waneta, $20.50



European plums

P. domestica Although also delicious fresh, this is the plum that is grown commercially for prunes. A true prune is a plum that can be dried without the pit fermenting. European plums produce smaller fruit and are generally not as hardy as the hybrid plums, though they can handle heavier soils and are less prone to brown rot. Unlike hybrids, they are prone to the fungal disease black knot, which looks like black chewing gum and appears on branches. While not necessarily fatal, it must be kept in check by removing and destroying infected branches. Trees grow upright and are usually trained to a central leader. Although **European plums are self-pollinating**, planting two different varieties will improve pollination. (3 1/2-6' trees)

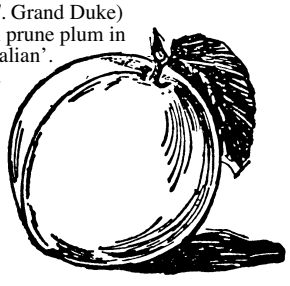
Blue River Unknown parentage. Probably from near Riviere Bleue, Quebec. Very hardy heirloom European plum. Practically all the European *domestica*-type plums offered in U.S. catalogs are unsuited to northern growers. The ones with good flavor lack hardiness while the hardier sorts lack flavor or disease-resistance. Our annual trips to northern Maine are not the "Hunt for Red October." When it comes to plums, they are the Hunt for Blue September. The Riviere Bleue plum is one of our best finds. It dates from one of the last trips we took with long-time fruit explorer Garfield King. Large roundish oval dark blue fruit. Very good fresh eating. Likely originated in the area just north of Fort Kent, then migrated down into the U.S. Still considered under trial, but showing great promise for growers in colder districts. Z3. **ME Grown.**

2121 Blue River, $20.50

Golden Transparent Gage Late Summer. Seedling or sport of Green Gage, one of the oldest and most famous plums, dating back to 17th century France. Also known as **Golden Gage**. Small-medium oval-shaped yellow fruit is sweet and easy to eat out-of-hand. In fact eating them can get *out of hand* every year when we visit Garfield King's backyard orchard in northernmost Maine. You can eat them like candy. The fruit quality is quite good and the tree is very hardy. So far it appears to be disease resistant. Highly recommended for northern growers. Z3. **ME Grown.**

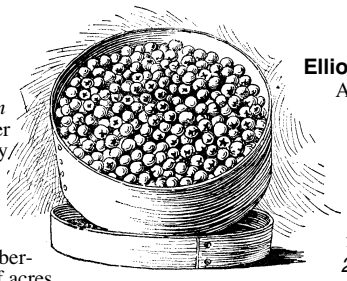
2129 Golden Transparent Gage, $20.50

Stanley Late Summer. (*P. d*. Agen x *P. d*. Grand Duke) NY Station, 1926. Most popular European prune plum in America with the possible exception of 'Italian'. Excellent for cooking, eating, canning and drying. Medium-to-large fruits with dark blue skin. Green-yellow firm but tender juicy fine-grained sweet flesh. Reliably bearing fast-growing adaptable medium-to-large funnel-shaped tree produces healthy vigorous annual crops. Z3. **ME Grown.**



2180 Stanley, $20.50

Small Fruits & Berries



Lowbush Blueberry *Vaccinium angustifolium*

6x24" Blueberry growers in Maine usually don't bother with the "lowbush" distinction; to them, this is the only true blueberry. Though both plants and berries are diminutive, the taste is supreme. Lustrous blue-green foli-age in summer followed by an amazing combination of bronze, orange and scarlet in the fall. Grown in Maine long before Europeans came Downeast, blueberries are still a local favorite, cultivated on thousands of acres. Commercial blueberry land is burned in the spring to clear out the weeds; a crop follows a year later. To speed harvesting, berries are usually raked rather than hand-picked. I do either, depending on my mood and the availability of my rake. You don't have to burn and rake to have a small-scale planting. Native to northeastern U.S. Z2. **ME Grown.** (2-yr transplants)

2260 Lowbush Blueberry, $10.00

Lowbush Blueberries

Woodsy dry poor acid soil (pH 4.0-5.2) is a prerequisite for lowbush blueberries. If you've got white pine, you're probably all set. Plant 12" apart each way and cultivate as a ground cover. Generally self-pollinating; other blueberries nearby will help ensure pollination. Full sun is best for maximum fruit production. Keep your patch weed free.

Highbush Blueberries

V. corymbosum are native to North America. While usually associated with New Jersey and Michigan, many of Maine's lakes are lined with massive stands of highbush blueberries. Grazing the shore requires only time and a suitable vessel; I prefer kayak or canoe. The beautiful vigorous shrubs are extremely easy to grow at home, productive and reliable, with few disease or insect problems. By planting several varieties, you can harvest berries from early July through most of August. **Two varieties are required, three or more recommended, for pollination**. (12-30" 2-yr old plants)

Bluecrop Early-Midseason. GM 37 (Jersey x Pioneer) x CU-5 (Stanley x June) USDA, NJ, 1952. Medium-sized firm subacid fruit; very light blue berries of high dessert quality, resistant to cracking. Medium-large open clusters. Vigorous, upright 4-6' consistently productive bush. Ripens over a long season. May not be perfectly ripe when they first turn blue. Give them a few more days to reach full flavor before picking. Pruning will help maintain fruit size. Z4.

2280 Bluecrop Blueberry, $10.00

Blueray Mid. (GM 37 x CU-5) USDA, NJ, 1955. Large firm dark blue berries of high dessert quality in small clusters. Considered the best-tasting by nearly everyone who grows highbush blueberries. Very vigorous 4-6' bush with upright spreading habit. Consistently productive. Z4. **ME Grown.**

2285 Blueray Blueberry, $10.00

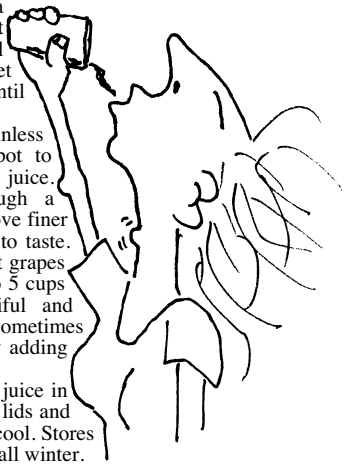
Duke Early. G-100 (Ivanhoe x Earliblue) x 192-8 (E-30 x E-11), USDA, NJ, 1987. Recent release considered a big improvement over Earliblue, the standard early cultivar. Firm medium-sized light blue fruit with mild sweet flavor, excellent for fresh eating or processing. Vigorous upright high-yielding 4-6' bush. Long stems and loose clusters. Z4.

2295 Duke Blueberry, $10.00

Berry Juice

from Fedco grower Sue Szwed

Combine equal parts water and berries (blackberries, blueberries, chokecherries, cranberries, grapes, elderberries, raspberries, etc.) Simmer 20 to 30 minutes in a stainless steel pot. (Don't squash chokecherries or they'll be impossible to strain.) Let stand for 15 to 30 minutes until the fruit settles.



Pour fruit and liquid into a stainless steel colander over a large pot to separate the pulp from the juice. Strain the juice again through a strainer or cheese cloth to remove finer particles. Add honey or sugar to taste. (For 10 qts of Beta and Valiant grapes with 10 qts of water, I use 4 to 5 cups of honey to make a beautiful and fragrant purple grape juice. Sometimes we cut the juice even more by adding water when we drink it.)

To preserve, hot pack the fruit juice in steaming sterilized jars. Put on lids and rings and invert on counter till cool. Stores beautifully and is great to have all winter.

Elliot Very Late. Burlington x (Dixi x [Jersey x Pioneer]) USDA, 1974. A real season-extender. Considered the latest of all varieties, Eliot ripens two weeks after Jersey. Loose clusters of medium-sized very firm mild-flavored light-blue berries. Slightly spreading somewhat bushy upright plant is consistently highly productive in part because it blooms late and escapes spring frosts. Be forwarned: the berries may turn blue before they reach their peak flavor. Leave them on the bush until they are fully ripe. Check a few before you pick them all! Z4.

2304 Elliot Blueberry, $10.00

Jersey Mid-Late. Rubel x Grover, USDA, 1928. The beloved old standard of blueberry introductions to which new varieties are compared. Medium-to-large dark blue berries in large loose clusters. Vigorous erect hardy bush, 5-7' tall. Productive, widely grown, adapted to a wide range of soils, highly praised, easy to grow and suited to the New England climate. Z4. **ME Grown.**

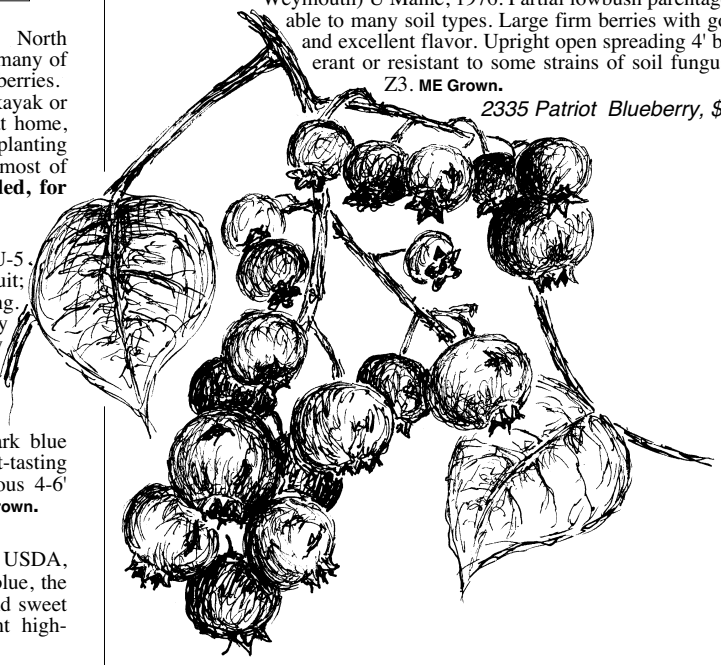
2310 Jersey Blueberry, $10.00

Northland Early. Berkeley x 19-H, Mich St U, 1967. Early highbush x lowbush type bears long loose clusters of medium-small dark blue berries with excellent wild flavor. Very vigorous and productive, 3' moderately spreading bush has limber branches which tolerate snow well. Good for landscaping, bird forage and dessert. Hardy. Z3.

2325 Northland Blueberry, $10.00

Patriot Early-Mid. US3 (Dixie x Michigan LB-1) x Earliblue (Stanley x Weymouth) U Maine, 1976. Partial lowbush parentage. Adaptable to many soil types. Large firm berries with good color and excellent flavor. Upright open spreading 4' bush. Tolerant or resistant to some strains of soil fungus. Hardy. Z3. **ME Grown.**

2335 Patriot Blueberry, $10.00



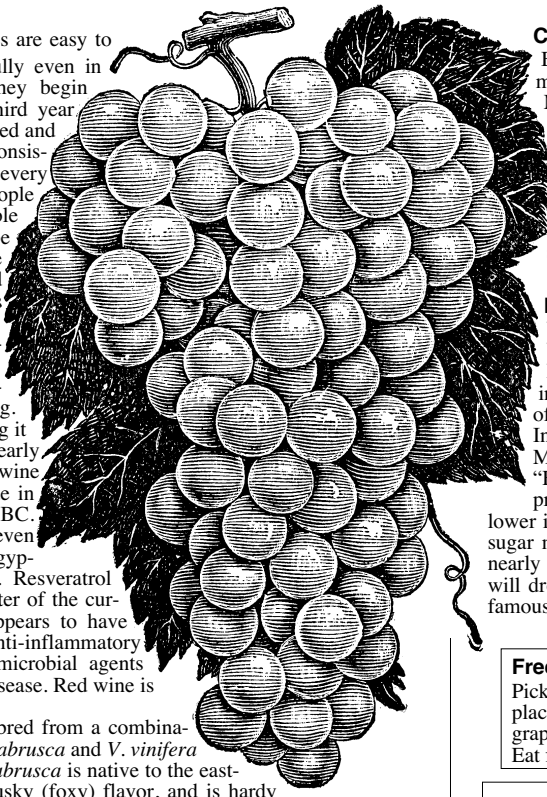
Highbush Blueberries are shallow-rooted and like light acid soil (pH 4.0-5.2), plenty of water, good drainage, and plenty of organic matter. Space them 3-6' apart (3' for the shorter varieties) in rows 8-10' apart. If your soil is lacking acidity, add peat, woods humus, or 1 cup elemental sulfur per bush.

Dig a hole at least twice the size of the root ball. If you use peat, soak it and then mix it with soil at a one-to-one ratio. We suggest soaking roots in Agri-gel. Plant at the same depth as in the nursery (or slightly deeper). Do not let the roots dry out! Pack the soil firmly and water thoroughly. Plants require at least 1" water per week during the growing season. On most soils, blueberries require regular applications of nitrogen. In the spring, fertilize with 21-0-0 fertilizer at a rate of 1-2 tablespoons per year-of-age plant (e.g., 3-6 Tb for a 3-year-old plant). Or use an organic equivalent such as 1/2-1 qt composted hen manure per plant.

Fruit is produced on vigorous one-year shoots off healthy canes. As canes age they become twiggy and less productive. Begin pruning after three years. Head back long pieces of new growth for a bushier plant. Cut out weak or dead canes and dead tips. Each bush should be allowed to grow 6-10 canes varying in age from one to six years old. Thereafter, remove dead canes and those over 6 years old and encourage new replacement canes. Bushes with regular moderate pruning produce the most berries.

Berries may need net protection from birds. One of the best arrangements I've seen is John Meader's netted "house" in Buckfield. He has about 40 bushes growing under a framework made of posts and 2x4s and completely covered in netting.

Competition with grass may weaken and kill your blueberries. Mulch heavily (3-6" or more) every year with pine needles, cardboard, wood chips, hay, sawdust, even old slab wood. When using sawdust you may want to compensate by adding extra nitrogen.



Grapes *Vitis* spp. Grapes are easy to grow and can bear plentifully even in northern New England. They begin fruiting in the second or third year after planting. They are rugged and cold-hardy. Our vines bear consistently and heavily almost every year. Although many people prefer seedless types for table use, seeded varieties can be quite enjoyable right off the vine if you don't mind "grape nuts." Grape seeds contain an anti-oxidant that is twice as powerful as Vitamin C.

The popularity of drinking wine is not a new thing. The Chinese were fermenting it from hawthorn berries nearly 12,000 years ago. The first wine from grapes was likely made in Turkey or Iran about 5,000 BC. Traces of red wine were even found in the tomb of the Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamen. Resveratrol is the polyphenol at the center of the current red wine hoopla. It appears to have anti-carcinogenic and anti-inflammatory properties as well as anti-microbial agents that work to prevent heart disease. Red wine is good for you!

Most grape varieties are bred from a combination of different species, *V. labrusca* and *V. vinifera* being the most important. *Labrusca* is native to the eastern U.S., has a wild tart musky (foxy) flavor, and is hardy and disease-resistant. Concord is the best-known of the Labruscas. *Vinifera*, native to Europe, is extremely high quality, making it the most important wine grape in the world, but is not cold hardy and is prone to disease. Riesling and Chardonnay are the two hardiest pure *vinifera* grapes.

In central Maine, "very early" grapes begin ripening in mid-August, while "midseason" ripen mid-September. Late-season Concord, a standard elsewhere, does not ripen in many northern areas. **Most do not require a second cultivar for pollination.** (1-2 yr well-rooted vines)

Beta Midseason. (*V. riparia* x Concord) Originated by Louis Suelter (pronounced *Sool*-ter) in Minn, 1881. Beta was named after his wife and is pronounced *Bett*-uh not *Bay*-tuh. Old standby, excellent for juice, jelly and jam. Decent eating off the vine when completely ripe. Medium-sized black berries in moderately compact to loose clusters. Early to bloom, early to ripen. Vigorous healthy productive vines, extremely hardy. Z3.

2370 Beta Grape, $9.50

Bluebell Mid. MN 158 (Beta x unknown) Developed by JM Dorsey, U Minn, 1944. Our most popular seeded grape; it does everything well. Extremely hardy, to -30°, labrusca type ripens 2-3 weeks earlier than Concord. Delicious sweet flavor makes them excellent for fresh eating, jelly and juice. Clusters of medium-sized dark berries with a heavy blue bloom. Strong, productive, vigorous—but not rampant—vine. A joy to grow. Immune to most or all fungal diseases. Rare. Z3.

2380 Bluebell Grape, $9.50

Grapes prefer soils with pH of 5.8–7.0. They benefit from full sun and high heat. Try planting them near a stone wall, a big boulder, or the south side of a building. Although soil should not be rich, it should be well-drained with plenty of organic matter. Space 8-12' apart in rows 8-12' apart.

Spread the roots out, planting the crown even with the soil surface. Do not prune roots. Pack soil well. Water and mulch well. After frost danger has passed, prune vines back to 3-5 strong buds. In later years spread compost and mulch with hay or straw.

Grapes require annual pruning and a trellis or arbor, though in Italy they grow them in maple trees (see p. 32). All systems for growing grapes involve removal of most growth in spring or late fall to encourage new canes, as fruit is produced on these canes. There are many systems for training grapes. Some are suited to laying down and covering tender varieties over winter. Any good book on grape growing will show you several options. We suggest the Hudson River Umbrella or the Four-arm Kniffin system.

Grapes rated for Zone 5 can be grown in Zones 3 and 4. To prevent winter injury, remove the vine from the trellis in fall, lay it on the ground, and bury with just enough soil to cover. This task is neither difficult nor time-consuming, and does work.

ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop.

Chontay Early. (Massasoit x Beta) NE Hansen intro, SD Stn, Brookings, SD, 1925. A generally forgotten variety from the upper midwest that we've been trialing in our vineyard for the past 15 years. Medium-sized loose clusters of large purple fruit. Good fresh eating. Reminiscent of the N.Y. grape Steuben. In an old issue of the Minnesota Grape Growers *Notes from the North*, Tom Plocher wrote, "I have grown kind of fond of this grape for its beauty, and spicy, fruity (but not labrusca) flavor, not to mention its hardiness. It was one of the few varieties that bore fruit this year following our -41° winter." Not considered a wine grape unless you like a strong-flavored brew. Some do. Vigorous vine. Z3/4.

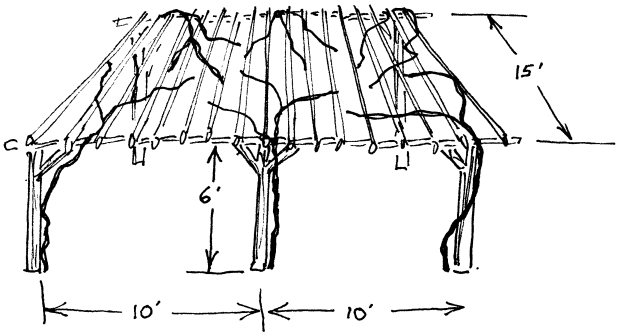
2397 Chontay Grape, $9.50

Frontenac Mid-Late. MN1047 (*V. riparia* 'RIP 89' x Landot 4511) U Minn, about 1995. An excellent new hardy red wine grape from the University of Minnesota, suitable for rosé, red and port wines. Becoming a favorite in recent New England commercial plantings, including two within half an hour from here. Very large loose clusters of small berries. Vigorous very productive largely disease-free vines. Intense juice color, low tannins, high sugar and high acid content. Maine grape researcher and tester Jerry Rodman wrote to me, "Frontenac has made some good wines, but is very high in acid and is probably best for areas with high heat accumulation (which helps to lower its acid)." In *Notes from the North*, John Marshall adds, "Though the sugar may rise to impressive levels early in September, the grapes are not nearly ripe. Ignore the sugar levels and wait until September 20th. The acid will drop and the wonderful black cherry flavors that will make this grape famous will multiply." Z4/5.

2435 Frontenac Grape, $9.50

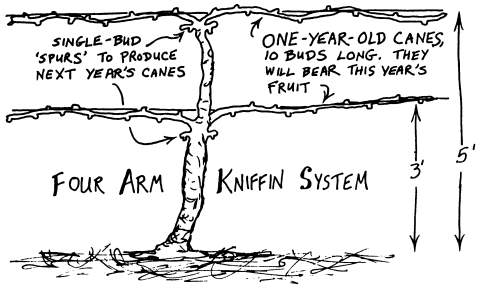
Freezer Grapes

Pick grapes, both seeded and seedless. Remove from the stems and place in a single layer on a baking pan. Put in the freezer. When the grapes are frozen, pack in small freezer bags and return to the freezer. Eat frozen; delicious! Better than candy or popsicles.



Growing Grapes on an Arbor

Train one or more vines onto an arbor or gazebo. Encourage several permanent arms off the trunk and then every winter remove 70-90% of the the past summer's growth. Next summer new fruiting canes will grow off the permanent arms.


SINGLE-BUD 'SPURS' TO PRODUCE NEXT YEAR'S CANES
ONE-YEAR-OLD CANES, 10 BUDS LONG. THEY WILL BEAR THIS YEAR'S FRUIT
FOUR ARM KNIFFIN SYSTEM
3'
5'

Pruning Grapes in the Four-Arm Kniffin System

First year: Cut plant back when planting to a single stem, 6" long with two to three buds, after the last danger of frost has passed.

Second year: Set up two wires, 3' and 5' high, stretched between posts. Cut plant back to a single stem, 6 feet long and tie it to the top wire. Leave 4-6 buds near each wire and remove others.

Third year: Select 8 canes, 4 for each wire, and remove the rest. Tie two canes to each wire, one in each direction. Cut these four canes back to 10 buds each. Cut the remaining four canes back to two buds each.

Later years: In the spring, remove last year's fruiting canes. Select eight new canes. Cut 4 of them to 10 buds each, and tie them to your wires. Cut the remaining four back to two buds each. These will produce next year's fruiting canes. Remove all other canes. The number of buds left on the fruiting canes may be adjusted to encourage more fruit or larger size.

Kay Gray Mid. ES217 (MN78 x Golden Muscat) x open-pollinated (Onaka?) Elmer Swenson introduction, Osceola, WI, 1981. Tight clusters of medium golden-white slip-skin berries. Mild sweet fruity flavor good for dessert or juice. Also makes a decent wine for blending; some years it will produce an exceptional varietal wine on its own. Extremely good disease resistance. Very reliable moderately vigorous productive vine. Very hardy. Z3.

2450 Kay Gray Grape, $9.50

Louise Mid. ES 4-8-33 (ES 2-3-17 x Kay Gray) Swenson introduction, Minn. Also called **Louise Swenson**. Very high-quality white wine grape that produces a light subtle aromatic table wine. Named for breeder Elmer Swenson's wife. Minnesota Grape Growers describes the wine as being "without any negative hybrid characteristics, and has a typical delicate aroma of flowers and honey. This wine's only significant fault is that it is rather light in body. Blending with a variety such as Prairie Star makes it a more complete wine." In a phone conversation, grower John Marshall told me that "The two [Louise and Prairie star] go hand in hand." Louise "needs to be stiffened up." It is extremely reliable and moderately vigorous. Small-medium clusters. Disease resistant. Buds-out relatively late in the spring. Extremely hardy, to -40˚.

2461 Louise Grape, $9.50

Prairie Star Mid. ES 3-24-7 (ES 2-7-13 x ES 2-8-1) Swenson intro, Minn, 1984. Blocky long slightly loose clusters of medium-sized white fruit. Excellent sugar and acidity for winemaking. Makes a nice classy varietal wine with no foxy flavor. Tom Plocher and Bob Parke reported in *Notes from the North* that the wine has "a fullness in the mouth and finish that is uncommon among our hybrids.…In some years it develops a delicate floral nose that allows it to stand as a single variety wine. In most years however, Prairie Star is an ideal blending component to add body and finish to thin white wines." We recommend blending with Louise or St. Pepin. A favorite of Jerry Rodman who has tested dozens of grape varieties at his Litchfield, ME, vineyard. Prefers heavier fertile soils. Disease-resistant and very hardy. Z3/4.

2480 Prairie Star Grape, $9.50

Reliance Seedless Very Early. Arkansas 1163 (Ontario x Suffolk Red) Arkansas Stn, 1982. Probably the highest-quality seedless grape for the North, good for fresh eating or juice. Large loose clusters of tender melting sweet pinkish-red fruit with a strawberry-like flavor. Stores well in a root cellar for 1-2 months. Seems perfectly hardy in our Zone 4 trials. Lay vines down for the winter in coldest areas. Although the literature cautions about Reliance's disease susceptibility, our vines have performed well and have remained disease-free. Z4/5.

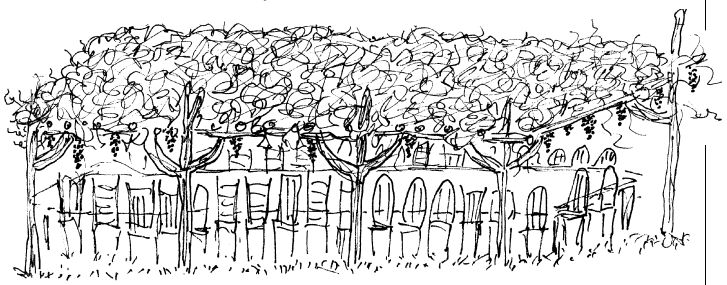
2485 Reliance Seedless Grape, $9.50

Sabrevois Mid. ES 2-1-9, Swenson intro, Minn, 2001. Extremely cold-hardy red wine grape. Produces an excellent dry complex aromatic wine with good body. Best used in a light style. Produces small to medium-sized clusters of black fruit, with moderate sugars and slightly high acids. Often used for blending with Frontenac or other reds known for higher sugars. Varietals should be aged for two years in the bottle. Very strong vigorous grower with good upright growth patterns. When grown on a large trellis it can produce large crops. Named after the town near the Richelieu River in southern Quebec where Gilles Benoit of Vignoble des Pins first made high quality wine from the variety. Very disease resistant. Hardy to about -31˚. Z4. **ME Grown.**

2488 Sabrevois Grape, $9.50

St. Croix Mid. ES 242 (ES 283 x ES 193) Swenson intro, Osceola, WI. Juicy low-acid medium blue grapes in medium-sized bunches. High quality pale red juice and vinifera-type fruity dry red wine. Very popular as the primary variety in blended red wines for those in the coldest districts. Disease resistant. Extremely hardy. Z3/4.

2495 St. Croix Grape, $9.50



Somerset Seedless Early. (ES 12-7-98) (Petite Jewell x ?) Swenson intro. Although not as hardy as Beta, Bluebell and Chontay, Somerset is likely the hardiest seedless grape available today. One of the last Swenson introductions before the renowned and beloved grape breeder passed away. Medium-sized loose clusters with small sweet ruddy reddish golden fruit. Crispy texture and great flavor. Easy to grow but not overly vigorous. We're very excited to be offering vines this year. Although we have a fairly decent supply, availability is limited so please order early. Z4.

2512 Somerset Seedless Grape, $9.50

Fruit Leather

from Fedco customer Liz Lauer

To dry fruit leather you need an electric home dryer, a greenhouse, coldframe, sauna or any well-ventilated fly-proof building where trays can be set up with fans and maybe a woodstove. Liz has a multi-shelved "cabinet" with no front in her greenhouse where she stacks several trays for drying. Fruit leather will dry with ventilation alone, especially when aided by a fan, although on the first day you may need a woodstove.

To dry all of the fruit leathers described below, spread the prepared fruit puree on cookie sheets, preferably the non-stick type to which a small amount of oil has been added and wiped off. Large cookie sheets can hold 3 to 3 1/2 cups of fruit puree. When the leather has dried, dust both sides with arrowroot powder to absorb excess moisture and facilitate handling. Roll up in Saran Wrap. Cut the Saran Wrap larger than the leather by an inch or two all the way around, and fold that edge in when rolling it up. Other plastic wraps, freezer paper and wax paper work poorly. Store in a cool place.

Apple Leather

Coarsely chop 18 lbs of sweet apples. Put in a large kettle with up to 2 qts cider or water. Use less liquid if the apples are juicy. Cook on stove top over medium heat until apples are soft and some liquid has evaporated. The pulp should be the consistency of apple sauce. Strain the pulp through a Squeezo or food mill to remove the skins and seeds. Add honey to taste while the pulp is still warm. (1 1/2 cups of honey for 4 qts of pulp works well for some apple varieties.) Chill for several hours or overnight. Puree with an immersion blender or food processor until smooth. Spread fruit pulp in a layer 1/8" thick on prepared trays, about 3 cups per tray. Follow instructions above to dry.

Grape Leather

Clean and remove stems from 20 qts of grapes (about 30 lbs on the stem). Place grapes in a large kettle or bowl and smash with your feet, potato masher or mallet. Add 1 cup of grape juice or water, and simmer on stove top till liquid is reduced and fruit is soft. Put pulp through a Squeezo three times with a long auger to remove seeds and skins. You should end up with approximately 12 qts of pulp. Return pulp to stove top and simmer, stirring occasionally, until reduced to about 7 1/2 cups. Remove from heat, and mix in 2 1/2 cups cane sugar or to taste. Chill for several hours or overnight. Puree with an immersion blender or food processor until smooth. Spread fruit pulp in a layer 1/8" thick on prepared trays, about 3 cups per tray. Dry. This makes about 8 cookie sheets of grape fruit leather.

Blackberry Leather

Clean 30 lbs of berries. Place berries in a large kettle and crush. Heat in their own juice until soft and runny. Put through a Squeezo three times with a short auger and medium screen and then two times with a long auger and small screen. Keep the pulp that results from the two screens separate. This should yield approximately 9 qts regular pulp and two quarts extra thick pulp. Set extra thick pulp aside. Return the regular pulp to the kettle, and cook on the stove top for 3 1/2 hours stirring occasionally so that it does not stick to the bottom. Remove from heat. Mix in the extra thick pulp and 6 cups of honey or to taste. Chill for several hours or overnight. Puree with an immersion blender or food processor until smooth. Spread fruit pulp in a layer 1/8" thick on prepared trays, about 3 cups per tray. Dry. 30 lbs of blackberries makes approximately 12 1/2 cookie sheets of fruit leather.

Blueberry Leather

Clean berries. Puree whole, uncooked berries in a food processor. Heat on the stove top. Simmer for up to 4 hours to reduce liquid. The more watery the fruit, the longer it will take to cook down. When pulp is no longer runny but is still soft and spreadable, remove from heat. Stir in honey to taste. Chill for several hours or overnight. Puree with an immersion blender or food processor until smooth. Spread fruit pulp in a layer 1/8" thick on prepared trays, about 3 cups per tray. Dry.

Raspberries *Rubus* spp.

The ruby red and golden yellow cultivated raspberries growing in the garden are native to North America, Europe and Asia. They are usually identified as *R. ideaus* or *R. ideaus* var *stirgosus*. Hyland and Steinmetz's *Trees and Other Woody Plants of Maine* lists 53 different *Rubus* species and subspecies.

Everbearing types bear on first-year canes or primocanes. We don't offer Heritage, a popular producer of high-quality fruit, because it ripens too late for growers in Zone 4 and cold areas of Zone 5. We're building up our stock of August Red and Pathfinder. We will offer these two rare favorites again in coming years.

Summer-bearing cultivars bear on second-year canes or floricanes. Harvest leaves for medicinal use from first-year canes. A leaf and fruit vinegar is very high in minerals, and the leaf tea makes a great tonic for both uterus and prostate.

A second variety is not needed for pollination. Prior to planting, soak canes in Agri-gel (see sidebar; available here or in the Organic Growers Supply section of the Seed Catalog. (well-rooted bare-root canes)

Anne Late. JEF-b1 (Amity x Glen Garry) Flavorful everbearing yellow raspberry, ripens earlier than Kiwigold and is actually yellow, not a washed-out pink. Large cohesive fruit with good flavor. Tall rangy productive plant may sucker less than other everbearing types. Mulching or adding organic matter to the soil will encourage more suckering which should, of course, improve yield. Like other everbearing types, cut it right down to the ground after the season. Z4.

2577 Anne Raspberry, bundle of 10, $20.00

Raspberries and Blackberries

Cane fruits have shallow perennial roots and biennial fruiting canes. They prefer full sun, good air circulation and well-drained soil, rich in organic matter, with pH of 5.8-6.2. Avoid soils where tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, strawberries or wild brambles have grown because they all are subject to verticillium wilt, which may remain in the soil. Plant rows 6-12' apart to facilitate cultivation. See below for planting distances. Before planting, work into the soil 15 bushels dry manure or 10 bushels fresh manure per 100 sq feet. A well-kept patch can last for 10-20 years.

Be sure each hole is large enough to spread out the roots. Do not allow the fine roots to dry out. We suggest soaking roots in Agri-gel for 1-2 hours before planting. Plant 1-2" deeper than in the nursery and then cut the canes off at ground level.

Cane fruits should be trellised between two temporary or permanent wires about 3-4' off the ground and 18-36" apart. Mulch with a thick layer of woodchips or sawdust. Fertilize liberally each spring with up to 100 lbs manure or compost, 8 lbs bloodmeal or 14 lbs cottonseed meal per 100 foot row. Plants require 2" water per week during the growing season.

• Summer-bearing varieties: Space 2' apart. After harvest, prune to the ground the canes that carried fruit or remove them the following spring. Thin the fresh first year canes to about 3-4" apart. They will bear fruit next year. During the growing season cut back canes to 5' if they are bending over severely.

• Purple and black raspberries: Plant in hills 3' apart. Basic pruning is same as summer-bearing varieties. As they fill in, thin to 5-8 canes per hill. During the early summer, pinch back tip of first year canes to 2½-3' tall. This will encourage lateral fruiting branches. These will need very little, if any, support and may not require trellising. In the following spring, cut these fruiting laterals back to 8-12 buds.

• Everbearing Raspberries: Plant 9-15" apart. Cut all canes to the ground in late fall after leaves drop, or in early spring; first-year canes will fruit in mid-late summer.

• Space blackberries 3-4' apart.

Killarney Early. (Chief x Indian Summer) Morden Station, Manitoba, 1961. Produces medium-to-large round crumbly fruit of excellent quality over a long season. Summer-bearing cultivar ripens after Prelude and before Nova. Sister of Boyne, but firmer in texture and brighter in color. Sturdy 4' canes. Yields consistently. Extremely hardy. Z3.

2660 Killarney Raspberry, bundle of 10, $18.50
2661 Killarney Raspberry, bundle of 25, $30.00

Nova Midseason. (Southland x Boyne) Kentville, Nova Scotia, 1981. Midseason red introduced relatively recently. In our trials Nova appears to be hardier than Boyne with fruit quality as good as or better than Boyne. Medium-sized firm somewhat acid bright red fruit. Summer-bearing. Upright productive minimally spiny canes produce long fruiting laterals which make the fruit easy to pick. Z3.

2685 Nova Raspberry, bundle of 10, $18.50
2686 Nova Raspberry, bundle of 25, $30.00

Polana Late. (Heritage x Zeva Herbsternte) Research Inst. of Pomology and Floriculture, Brzezna, Poland, 1991. Very early fruiting everbearing red raspberry. Should ripen in late August or early September in northern districts. Has performed very well in our Fedco trials. According to David Handley, "as near a thing to a sure bet." Large firm berries with very good flavor. Very vigorous and productive short canes. Easy to pick—the berries hang from the tops of the plants. Suckers freely. Z4.

2688 Polana Raspberry, bundle of 10, $18.50
2689 Polana Raspberry, bundle of 25, $30.00

Prelude Early. NY 1009. NY St Exp Stn. The best berry for early-season fresh eating. Listed for the first time in 2007 at the suggestion of grower John Meader who wrote to me, "I'd strongly recommend Prelude. It showed hardiness equal to Boyne last winter [2002-03] and fruits the earliest of all varieties I've observed (over 30)....Prelude would preceed Boyne nicely; it has good fruit (taste, firmness, size) and seems quite productive; it fruits well over two full weeks." Firm red medium-sized fruit is easy to see and pick, ripens in central Maine in early-mid July. Can be grown as a primocane type or floricane type. Suckers freely. Z4.

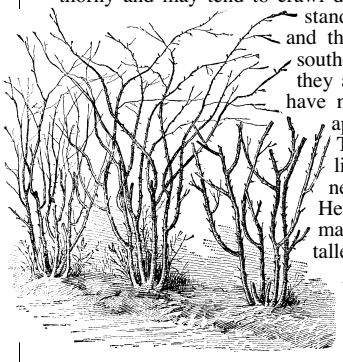
2690 Prelude Raspberry, bundle of 10, $18.50
2691 Prelude Raspberry, bundle of 25, $30.00

Royalty Purple Mid. (Cumberland x Newburgh) x (Newburgh x Indian Summer) NY Stn, 1982. Distinctly flavored cohesive fairly firm large berries make outstanding jam and jelly and even better fresh eating. Their flavor is different from the red raspberries, with a hint of black-raspberry. Extremely robust minimally suckering plants are very productive and open-formed; the berries are right in your face and easy to pick. Ready to harvest when they are deep purple, somewhat later than the reds. Summer-bearing. Plant in hills (see sidebar). Usually considered Zone 4 but is proving itself into Zone 3 with occasional slight tip dieback. Does not like wet soil. Disease resistant. Z3/4.

2700 Royalty Purple Raspberry, bundle of 10, $32.00

Blackberries *Rubus* spp.

Fort Kent King Unknown parentage, Aroostook County, ME. An extremely hardy blackberry of commercial potential for those who have planted "hardy" blackberries in the past and have been disappointed. Plant explorer Garfield King of Fort Kent, in northernmost Maine, introduced this berry to us in the late 1990s. Garfield had found it many years earlier on an abandoned farm in central Aroostook. He brought some plants up to Fort Kent and grew them in Zone 3 with great success. But up there, the deep snow protects the plants. We began to test them around Maine in less hospitable locations 7 years ago and since 2002 have been testing them around the country. Although those trials are still ongoing, all of the growers have reported them as being fully hardy. The canes are very productive, thorny and may tend to crawl during the first years. They will eventually stand erect. The fruit is generally ¾-1" long and the quality is very good to excellent. Our southernmost grower (on Long Island) reported they are "susceptible to wet weather fungus." I have not noticed that up here. Plant them 3-4' apart in good garden soil with lots of sun. They enjoy good air drainage but do not like desiccating winter wind. Stake if necessary. Cut out dead canes each year. Head back the plants during the summer to a manageable height (they will grow to be 6' or taller). **ME Grown.** (well-rooted bare-root canes)



2750 Fort Kent King Blackberry, bundle of 3, $18.50

Agri-gel A hydrogel formulation which absorbs and holds water. The swollen crystals adhere to plant roots, reducing transplant shock. Safe, non-toxic, easy to use. Useful for garden seedlings as well as woody plants. Highly recommended for raspberries and conifers. Half-ounce packet mixed with one to three gallons of water will treat up to 100 cane plants, or 50 trees and shrubs. ½ oz.

7510 Agri-gel, $2.00

Strawberries *Fragaria* x *ananassa* A major highlight of every summer is picking strawberries. Is that not heaven? Although no one knows where the common name *strawberry* originated, idle speculation has it that it comes from the practice of putting straw down between the rows for pickers to sit on while they sample the fruit and catch up with each other. Technically not berries or fruits at all, strawberries are enlarged fleshy receptacles. The fruits are those tiny embedded "seeds" (they're not seeds, but achenes which have seeds in them). Modern strawberries, developed about 1830, are a hybrid of *F. chiloensis* (native of Chile) and *F. virginiana* (native of North America).

Royce Bringhurst of the University of California-Davis, developed day-neutral strawberries from wild plants found in Utah's Wasatch Mountains. He crossed these with modern commercial varieties and introduced the first day-neutrals in 1980.

50 plants will plant from 50-100'. (virus-free bare-root stock)

Earliglow Early. MDUS 3861 [MDUS 2359 (Fairland x Midland)] x [MD2713 (Redglow x Surecrop)] Maryland Ag Exp Stn, 1966. Medium-sized berries. Best for fresh eating and freezing. Excellent flavor for an early berry. Barbara Bowling called it the best flavored of all varieties in *The Berry Growers Companion*. Also *the* favorite of local strawberry grower Shaun Keenan. Incredibly, Earliglow even beat Sparkle in the 2006 Middlesex School alumni strawberry taste-off. Though I witnessed the event I was ineligible to participate. Resistant to red stele and verticillium wilt. Considerably more productive in southern New England than up north. Z3.

2770 Earliglow Strawberry, bundle of 50, $12.50

Honeoye Early-Mid. NY 1409 (Vibrant x Holiday) NY Station, 1979. Tough, hardy, vigorous, extremely productive, and easy to grow. The freezer-filler of the strawberry patch. Large conic bright red fruit produced over long fruiting season. Firm flesh with tart—and surprisingly good—flavor. Excellent freezing quality. A week before Jewel. Probably the most popular commercial berry in the Northeast. Plant in well-drained soil to avoid red stele. Susceptible to verticillium wilt. Z3/4.

2775 Honeoye Strawberry, bundle of 50, $12.50

Jewel Mid-Late. NY 1324 [(Senga Sengana x NY E-58) x Holiday] NY Station, 1985. Added to our list at the suggestion of Shaun Keenan at Sand Hill Farm in Somerville. Shaun even went so far as to say that Jewel tasted almost as good as Sparkle. Although I don't think I'd go quite that far, I was very impressed with the berry. Large bright red glossy perfectly shaped fruit is firm, sweet and slightly aromatic. Unlike Sparkle, Earliglow and many other varieties, it keeps its size all season. Extremely popular with commercial growers. Good freezing quality. Low incidence of fruit rots and foliar diseases. Not resistant to verticillium or red stele. Z4.

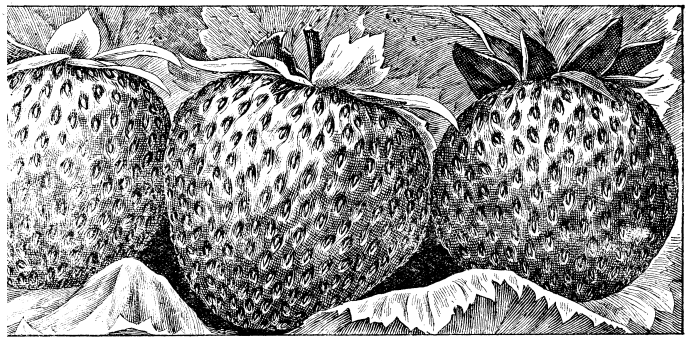
2780 Jewel Strawberry, bundle of 50, $12.50

Seascape CN 49. Developed by Royce Bringhurst, U Cal, Davis, 1991. Everbearing day-neutral strawberry sets flower buds regardless of day length, fruiting all summer and into fall. Remove flower buds for the first six weeks after planting and you'll still get a crop the first year. Seascape is showing excellent results in Northeast trials. Medium-to-long conic high-yielding firm productive reliable fruit with bright red color and excellent flavor. Produces over a very long season. Broad resistance to fungal diseases. Somewhat susceptible to common leaf spot and two-spotted spider mite. Should be hardy in all but the coldest districts. Probably Z4.

2787 Seascape Strawberry, bundle of 50, $17.25

Sparkle Mid-Late. (Fairfax x Aberdeen) NJ Ag Exp Stn, 1942. Although not a favorite with commercial growers due to moderate crop size and smaller berries, I've yet to taste a strawberry that comes even remotely close to Sparkle. To me, they possess a flavor that can only be described as the essence of strawberry. The best in an early year, the best in a late year, the best this year, last year, every year. This is *the* berry if you want to eat the perfect strawberry. Soft berries make delicious fresh eating and are also excellent for jams and freezing. One of its few drawbacks is that it tends to lose color in the freezer. First fruit set is large; the rest are small. Resistant to most strains of red stele. Blooms late and is rarely affected by spring frost. Z3.

2790 Sparkle Strawberry, bundle of 50, $12.50



Strawberries

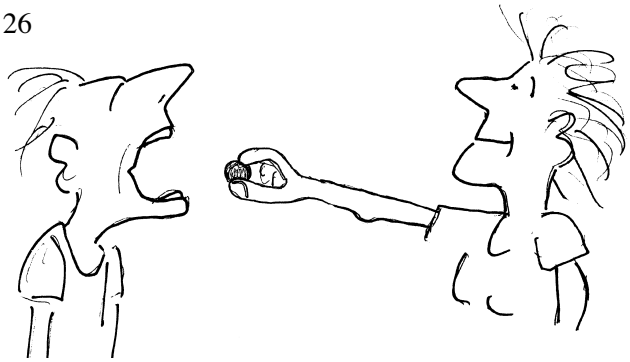
Keep cold or refrigerate between arrival and planting. Strawberries require good air drainage, well-drained fertile soil with pH of 5.8-6.2, thick mulch and full sun. Avoid soils where tomatoes, peppers or potatoes have grown in the past 4 years. Plant strawberries at the same depth as they were in the nursery, with the middle of the crown at soil level. Keep your patch free of weeds. They require 3/4-1" water per week during April, May, August, September and October. Mulch with hay or straw in late fall to protect plants over winter. In the spring, pull mulch off plants and place between rows where it will keep fruit dry and clean during the summer. It can also be raked back over the plants if frost threatens flower buds. Floating rowcover may also be used for winter and frost protection.

June-Bearing Strawberries

Matted Row system: Set plants 12-24" apart in rows 3' apart. Allow plants to produce runners freely and fill in the row. Remove all flowers the first year. Harvest berries the second summer. Immediately after harvest, fertilize liberally with compost or aged manure and renovate the row. By hand or with a tiller, narrow the row to 12" wide. Thin plants to 4-5" apart within the row. By this method a bed can last about 5 years. Then plow it under and start again.

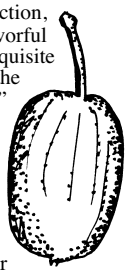
Day-Neutral Strawberries (like Seascape) flower regardless of day length as long as temperatures are between 35 and 85°, and produce fruit from June to October. They are also uncommonly productive—about one pound of fruit per plant the first year, and slightly less the second year. Productivity peaks in August the first year. The second year, berry size decreases in the hottest weather and increases in cooler weather.

They are heavy feeders and benefit from 3-4" of manure worked 4-6" into the soil prior to planting, and monthly side-dressing of manure throughout the season. Plant 6-12" apart. Mulch with black plastic or thick straw immediately after planting. Remove flowers for the first six weeks, and remove all runners the first season. Mulch in late fall. Side-dress with manure monthly during the second season beginning in May. Till under after the second year and begin again.



More Edibles

***Actinidia arguta* Hardy Kiwi** Productive climbing vine that produces delicious grape-sized kiwi fruits in late summer. Unlike supermarket kiwis, the skin is smooth and edible. Easy to grow in rich well-drained soils. Will begin producing in 5-9 years. No significant pest or disease problems. Some growers have been frustrated with vines that have proven unproductive or not hardy. After consulting several of Maine's long-time growers, we collected cuttings from fruiting combinations here in central Maine. We think you'll be pleased with our choices. We'll be offering more varieties in the years to come. Both male and female plants required for fruit. One male will pollinate at least three females. Z4. (well-rooted 2-3 yr vines)



***A. a.* Meader** (female) Summer. Elwyn Meader introduction, Rochester, NH. Early ripening medium-sized sweet and flavorful fruit. Grower Will Bonsall commented that since the "exquisite flavor [is] conducive to depraved behavior, members of the opposite sex should never eat fruits in the same room." Productive vine is hardy to -25˚. Z4 maybe 3. **ME Grown.**

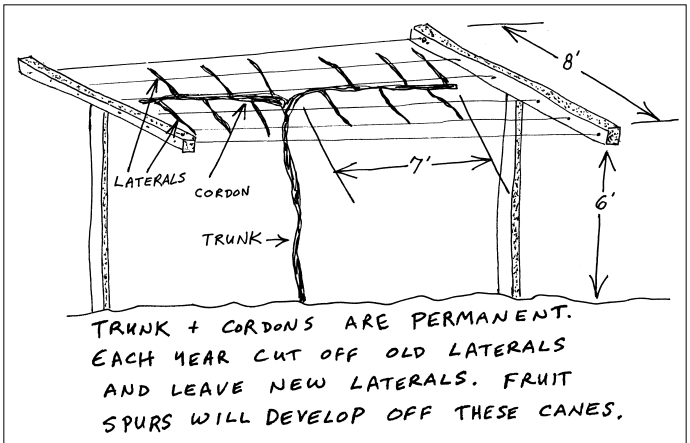
2827 Meader female kiwi, $13.00

***A. a.* Michigan State** (female) Summer. Michigan State University. Grower Tom Vigue calls the thumb-shaped thumb-sized fruit, "sweet and most highly luscious." The fruit is a bit sour to my palate. Although it might make you wince, the overall experience is joyous and delicious. Larger than other varieties. **ME Grown.**

2829 Michigan State female kiwi, $13.00

***A. a.* Meader Male** Hardy male kiwi suitable for pollinating Michigan State and Meader females. One male will pollinate several females. Vines are often grown just for their beautiful dark green ornamental foliage. **ME Grown.**

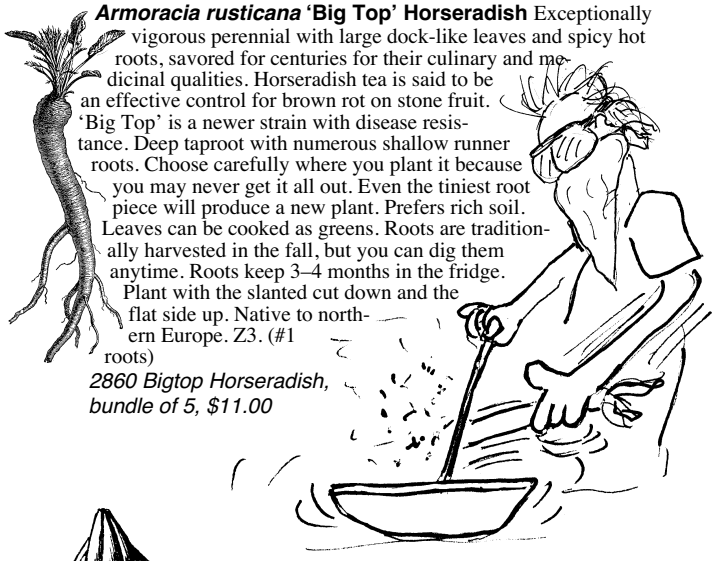
2834 Meader Male kiwi, $13.00



Kiwis are dioecious vines, meaning you must plant a male plant to pollinate the fruiting female plants. They are extremely vigorous and require a rugged trellis or arbor and heavy pruning. Plant vines 10' apart each way in moderately rich moist but well-drained soil (pH 5.0-6.5). Plant a male plant within 30' of any female; one male will pollinate several females. Although the vines are quite hardy, the flowers and foliage are frost sensitive. Planting on a northern exposure will delay budding-out in spring and reduce risk of frost damage. Protection from winter winds and intense winter sun is also recommended. Mulch with hay or wood chips. On poor soil fertilize with compost annually.

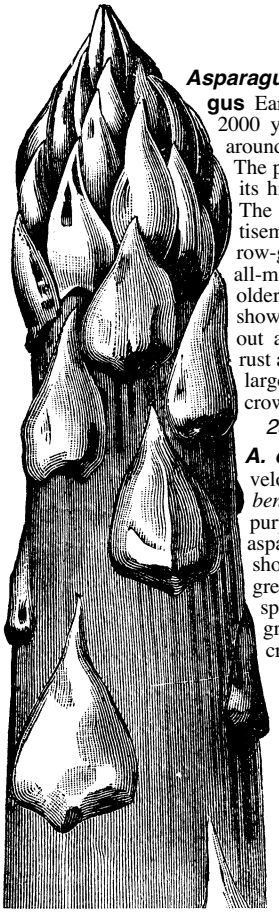
On a trellis: Train a single trunk to the trellis wires and then train two permanent 7-10' cordons (arms) off the trunk. Each winter remove at least 70% of old growth, leaving a dozen or so one-year-old laterals. That year's fruit will develop on fruit spurs growing off these one-year-old canes (laterals). On extremely rampant vines summer pruning may be required to keep the vines from choking out your farm.

On an arbor or gazebo: Once established, prune 70% of the old growth each year and leave some new canes for this year's fruiting.



***Armoracia rusticana* 'Big Top' Horseradish** Exceptionally vigorous perennial with large dock-like leaves and spicy hot roots, savored for centuries for their culinary and medicinal qualities. Horseradish tea is said to be an effective control for brown rot on stone fruit. 'Big Top' is a newer strain with disease resistance. Deep taproot with numerous shallow runner roots. Choose carefully where you plant it because you may never get it all out. Even the tiniest root piece will produce a new plant. Prefers rich soil. Leaves can be cooked as greens. Roots are traditionally harvested in the fall, but you can dig them anytime. Roots keep 3–4 months in the fridge. Plant with the slanted cut down and the flat side up. Native to northern Europe. Z3. (#1 roots)

2860 Bigtop Horseradish, bundle of 5, $11.00

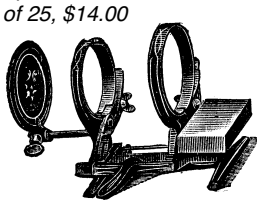


***Asparagus officinalis* 'Jersey Supreme' Asparagus** Early. Rutgers U. A spring staple for well over 2000 years, asparagus is thought to have originated around the Mediterranean Sea, perhaps in Asia Minor. The pharaohs, Greeks and Romans were all aware of its highly nutritious qualities and delectable flavor. The earliest known American horticultural advertisement, from March 1719, is for "English Sparrow-grass Roots." Jersey Supreme is a brand-new all-male hybrid which is more productive than the older all-male varieties. Occasionally females will show up in a planting. Leave them be or rogue them out as you wish. Excellent tolerance to asparagus rust and fusarium crown rot. Produces high yields of large-diameter tender spears. Z4. (large-rooted 1-yr crowns)

2872 Jersey Supreme, bundle of 25, $14.00

***A. o.* 'Purple Passion' Asparagus** Early. Developed from the Italian heirloom *Violetto di Albenga*. Brian Benson introduction. Very large deep purple stalk with a creamy white interior. Purple asparagus are actually a type of "white" asparagus shown the light. Sweeter and less stringy than its green counterparts, so you can use more of the spear. Tender enough to eat raw in salads. Turns green when cooked. Z4. (large-rooted 1-yr crowns)

2875 PurplePassion, bundle of 25, $14.00



WATTS' ASPARAGUS BUNCHER.

Asparagus requires fertile soil with pH 6.8-7.2 and high levels of phosphorous. It doesn't like weeds. Plant when you receive your order or as soon as the ground can be worked. Plant 14-18" apart, 6-10" deep, in trenches 4' apart. Or dig your trenches somewhat deeper and fill the bottom with 4" of compost and rotted manure. Lay plants with crown up and cover with 2" of soil. Plants emerge very slowly. As young shoots grow, add soil gradually, just covering the shoots, until the trench is full. In late fall, remove dead stalks and mulch with 3" of manure.

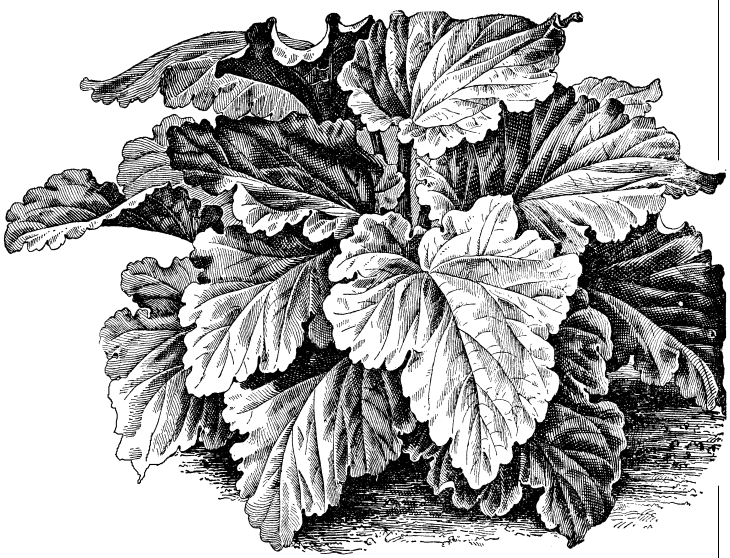
Second summer: Add lime, rock fertilizers, and nitrogen as needed. Control weeds but do not injure crowns.

Later years: Same routine but increase fertilizer. Be sure to leave some spears each year to grow stalks that will support the roots and give you more spears next year. Keep the bed weed free and mulched heavily.

New research shows that asparagus can be selectively harvested for 2 weeks during the second growing season, for 4 weeks in the third, and a full season thereafter. We recommend caution in harvesting. Before the third or fourth season, only the largest shoots from vigorous plants should be removed, as the young plants need to establish themselves.

***Rheum rhabarbarum* 'MacDonald' Rhubarb** MacDonald College, Quebec. Ben Franklin may have been the first to introduce rhubarb to North America. In 1770, while in England, he sent "some of the true Rhubarb seed" to John Bartram. By 1829 this Siberian plant was appearing in U.S. catalogs. A perennial herb of the buckwheat family, rhubarb's clumps of juicy acid leaf stalks have been a staple food and medicine every spring for thousands of years. Most famous these days for pies and wines, but also great for sauces, breads and juices. MacDonald has extremely vigorous productive upright large tender stalks, deep red inside and out. Leaves not edible. Native to Russia. Z3. (#1 crowns)

2880 MacDonald Rhubarb, bundle of 2, $10.00



Rhubarb
Plant the top of the root division level with the surface in well-prepared well-drained rich slightly acid soil (pH 5.5-6.5) and a bushel of well-rotted manure or compost under each crown. When plants are established, fertilize liberally with manure and balanced garden fertilizer or compost every spring, as it's a heavy feeder. Harvest for four weeks two years after planting. Thereafter you can harvest for 8-10 weeks each year. Never remove more than 2/3 of the stalks from a plant.

Every ten years or so, divide plants in early spring, leaving about 1/3 of the crown in place. Cut up the remainder into fist-sized pieces and replant.

Rhubarb Yogurt Cake

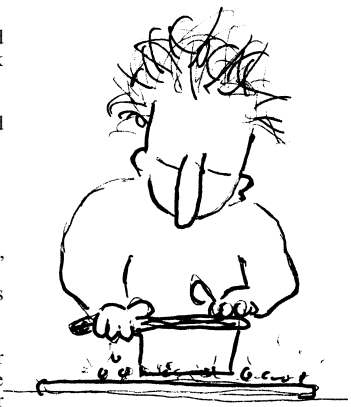
Topping:
2 Tbsp melted butter
1/2 cup brown sugar – packed
1/2 cup pecans – chopped
1/4 cup flour
1 tsp cinnamon
Mix and set aside.

Cake:
1 cup whole wheat flour
1 cup flour
1 1/2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp salt
1 cup plain or vanilla yogurt
3 Tbsp milk
1/2 cup butter
1 cup brown sugar – packed
2 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
2 1/2 cups rhubarb – chopped

Cream butter and sugar, then beat in eggs and vanilla. Combine dry ingredients separately. Mix yogurt and milk. Alternately add the dry ingredients and the yogurt mixture to the butter and sugar mixture. Beat until well blended. Fold in the rhubarb. Pour batter into a 13x9x2-inch pan that has been greased and floured. Sprinkle topping over the batter. Bake in a 350° oven for 45-50 minutes. Serve warm or cool for breakfast, tea, dessert or a snack.

ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop

Cranberry Relish

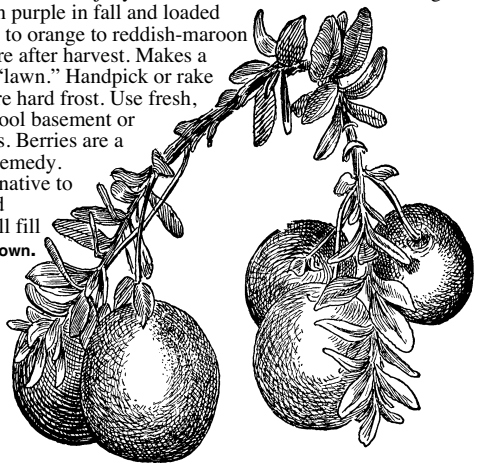


3 cups fresh cranberries (fresh red or white currants also work well)
1/4 cup minced green onions
2 small hot peppers, cored, seeded and minced (approx 2 Tbsp)
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup fresh cilantro, minced
2 Tbsp finely grated fresh ginger
2 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
Wedge of ripe Brie or other soft, flavorful cheese
Cranberries and/or cilantro sprigs for garnish

Rinse, drain, and pick over cranberries, discarding all that are soft or bruised. Chop by hand or pulse in a food processor until finely chopped but not mushy. Place cranberries in a bowl and mix with onions, hot peppers, sugar, cilantro, ginger, and lemon juice. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate at least 4 hours so flavors develop. Place cheese on a serving platter. Cover with the cranberry relish, and serve with crackers. Garnish if desired.

***Vaccinium macrocarpon* American Cranberry** This is the cranberry of holiday sauces, bread and jelly. Dense low 2-12" lustrous evergreen ground cover, reddish purple in fall and loaded with 1/2" light yellow to orange to reddish-maroon berries that color more after harvest. Makes a beautiful and edible "lawn." Handpick or rake like blueberries before hard frost. Use fresh, freeze, or store in a cool basement or root cellar for months. Berries are a well-known cystitis remedy. Requires acidic soil, native to northeastern U.S. and Canada. 10 plants will fill a 5x5' bed. Z2. **ME Grown.** (well-rooted plants with 3-4 runners)

2890 American Cranberry, bundle of 10, $16.50



American Cranberries are shallow-rooted and require light acid soil (pH 4.0-5.5), preferably cool, moist and high in organic matter, similar to soil in which blueberries grow well. Will grow in dry locations. Though often flooded for frost protection and convenience in commercial operations, flooding is not necessary in home plots. Plant them in spring once the ground can be worked. They do well in a bed or in a naturalized setting.

Instructions are for a 5 x 5' bed (10 plants).

For acidic "blueberry" soils: If you're fortunate to have a site where blueberries grow naturally, clear a spot of vegetation, cultivate the soil, add some peat and sand if you like, and you're ready to plant.

Sandy soils: Remove soil 10" deep and mix soil with 2 bales of damp peat moss. To acidify the soil, also mix in 1/4 lb sulfur. Replace mixture in bed and cover with 2" of sand.

Clay or silty soils: Remove soil 10" deep and place it around the edge of the bed as a berm. Replace the soil with 8" of moist peat moss (about 2 bales). Add 2" of sand and mix it slightly with the peat. To acidify the soil, also mix in 1/4 lb sulfur. Cover with an additional 2" of sand.

Plant cranberries 12" apart, so the roots are in the peat and the sand is covering the lower portion of the stems.

Remove all weeds as needed. Water the plants weekly so that the peat is moist but not saturated. Add nitrogen at a rate of 1/3-1 lb (or 20-50 pounds of manure) per 100 sq feet each year. No pesticides should be necessary.

Handpick before first hard frost when berries are red.

In late fall, cover the bed to protect the plants from the drying effect of winter winds. Use a mulch of leaves or pine needles; or cover with polyester row cover and then clear plastic; or cover with row cover and then plenty of leaves. If you use row cover or plastic, you may want to bait for mice under the plastic.

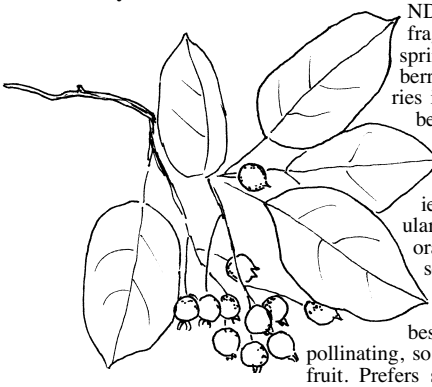
Remove mulch in early April. Protect flower buds from 28° frosts by covering with plastic during frosty nights.

Every two years partially cover the plants with a 1/2-1" layer of sand in spring before growth begins. This will help produce more berries and keep weeds down.

Fruiting Shrubs and Trees

These additional fruit-bearing trees and shrubs make beautiful hedges and attract birds and other wildlife. Many produce quite edible fruit as well. **Plant more than one of a kind to ensure pollination** for fruit production.

Amelanchier alnifolia 'Regent' **Juneberry** 4-6' Also called **Western Serviceberry**, **Saskatoon** or **Shadbush**. J Candrian introduction, Regent, ND. Compact shrub form with fragrant white flowers in early spring and large 1/3-1/2" blueberry-like sweet purplish berries in July. Sweeter than blueberries. Berries are good in pies or jams, fresh or dried. Used by native peoples in western prairies to make pemmican. Popular with wildlife. Nice red-orange fall color. Regent was selected for excellent foliage and berry production. Generally considered the best ornamental cultivar. Self-pollinating, so only one plant needed for fruit. Prefers slightly acid soil, pH 5-7. Thrives as well along stream beds as it does on rocky slopes. Tolerates partial shade, salt, pollution and wet spots but not standing water. Needs sweating before planting to break dormancy; see page 4 for instructions. May get leaf diseases in warmer humid areas. Native to northwestern North America. Z2. (6-12" transplants)



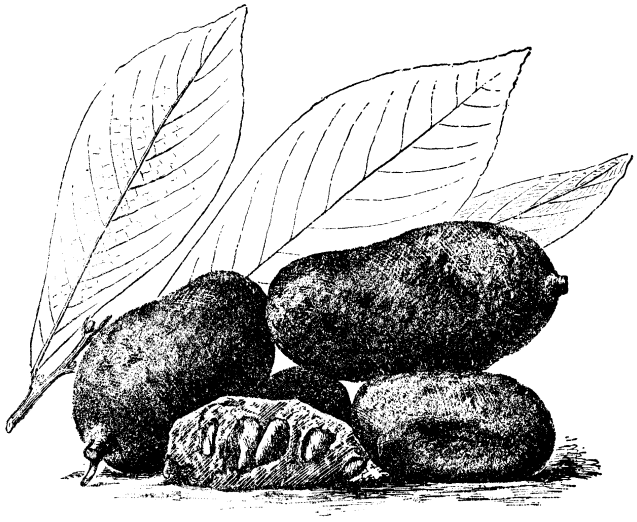
2930 RegentJuneberry, $11.00

A.* x *grandiflora **Apple Serviceberry** 20-25' x 15' A natural hybrid of *A. laevis* and *A. arborea*. In his classic *The Best of the Hardiest*, John Sabuco calls apple serviceberry, "Possibly the most ornamental of all serviceberries." Covered with large white blossoms in spring which give way to showy sweet tasty purplish-black fruit. Small foliage emerges purple and then fades to coppery red and eventually to blue-green. Fall turns it a brilliant red-orange. Heavily branched, rounded form. Attractive light grey bark. Full sun to full shade and anything in between. Soil adaptable. Z3-4. **ME Grown.** (2-4' transplants)

2951 Apple Serviceberry, $13.00

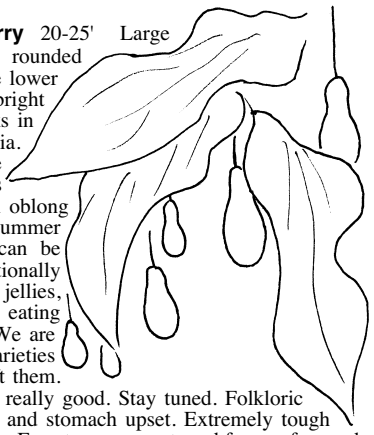
Asimina triloba **Pawpaw** 10-30' x same. Small tree that produces clusters of large (6") delicious smooth-skinned yellowish oblong fruit, high in protein and anti-oxidants. Ripens in late fall when they begin to feel like a good banana and detach easily from the stem. You can also pick them before they're ready and ripen them in a cool spot. Develops a delicious custardy vanilla flavor. Don't eat the skin or the seeds. Large drooping tropical-looking foliage. Plant two or more for pollination. Space plants 10-15' apart. Can be difficult to transplant because of its taproot. Prefers light shade and rich well-drained soil with neutral pH. Keep the young plants well weeded. Pest and disease free. Native Pennsylvania to Georgia, west to Nebraska. Z5 maybe Z4. **ME Grown.** (18-24" transplants)

2970 Pawpaw, $15.00



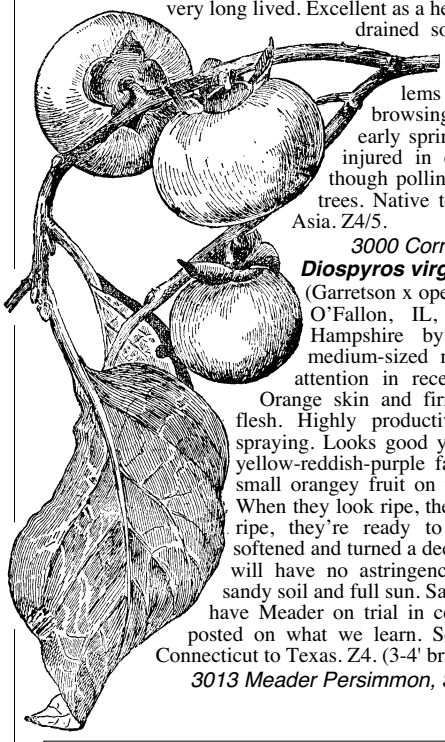
ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop

Cornus mas **Cornelian Cherry** 20-25' Large multistemmed shrub with oval to rounded form, or a small tree if you prune lower branches. Covered with small bright yellow flower clusters for 3 weeks in early spring, even before forsythia. Attractive long ovate leaves are shiny rich green. Bears profusions of dark red—almost black—small oblong cherry-like fruit from mid-late summer into fall. Fruit is variable but can be sweet, tart and tasty, and is traditionally used fresh, dried, pickled, in tarts, jellies, syrups and drinks. Best for fresh eating when dark red and slightly soft. We are currently trialing a number of varieties and are teaching ourselves to graft them. Some of the fruit I've sampled is really good. Stay tuned. Folkloric use for skin disorders, joint pains and stomach upset. Extremely tough useful wood. Flaky exfoliating bark. Easy to grow, pest- and fungus-free and very long lived. Excellent as a hedge or specimen. Prefers well-drained soils but adapts to most soils, city conditions, even shade. Drought tolerant. Pest problems negligible. Resistant to deer browsing. Fruit buds tend to escape early spring frosts although they can be injured in colder areas. Self-pollinating, though pollination may improve with more trees. Native to eastern Europe and western Asia. Z4/5.



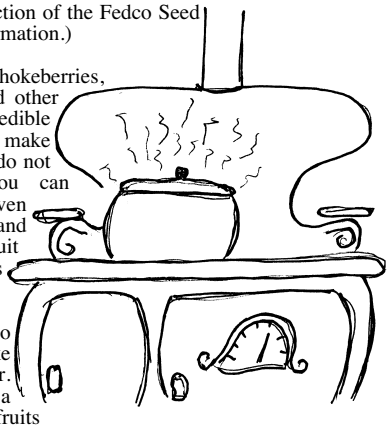
3000 Cornelian Cherry, $14.00

Diospyros virginiana **Meader Persimmon** (Garretson x open pollinated) Gerardi Nursery, O'Fallon, IL, 1974. Developed in New Hampshire by Elwyn Meader. Small to medium-sized native fruit has been gaining attention in recent years and deservedly so. Orange skin and firm smooth sweet high-quality flesh. Highly productive. Requires no pruning or spraying. Looks good year round. Highly ornamental yellow-reddish-purple fall color. You must ripen the small orangey fruit on the tree, which can be tricky. When they look ripe, they're not. When they look past ripe, they're ready to sample. Wait until they've softened and turned a deeper browny orange. Then they will have no astringency: enjoy! Moist well-drained sandy soil and full sun. Said to be hardy to -25°. We now have Meader on trial in central Maine. We'll keep you posted on what we learn. Self-pollinating. Species native Connecticut to Texas. Z4. (3-4' branched)



3013 Meader Persimmon, $25.00

Unusual Fruit Jellies Adapted from and reprinted with permission of *Hortideas*. (See the book section of the Fedco Seed catalog for subscription information.)



Here's a way to use your chokeberries, mulberries, elderberries, and other odds and ends from your edible landscape. These fruits all make tasty jellies, although some do not always jell perfectly. You can combine different fruits or even add commercial fruit juice and jell the mixture. Unusual fruit jellies make great presents and conversation pieces.

We recommend using "no sugar needed" pectin to make jelly with low or no sugar. Crush the fruits one layer at a time, adding water if the fruits are not very juicy. Simmer for about five minutes, then let the heated fruit and juice drip through a jelly bag until almost all of the juice is extracted. We usually get impatient and squeeze the bag when it cools down, even though that is supposed to make the resulting jelly less clear. Add just enough sugar to sweeten to taste, a lot less sugar than with traditional pectin. Use one package of "no sugar needed" pectin to jell every four cups of juice. Gradually stir the pectin into the juice, then bring to a boil. Boil hard for one minute, then ladle into clean jelly jars. Process the jars in a boiling water bath for ten minutes. When jelling is poor, use the result as fruit syrup on pancakes. Start with a small batch, no more than four cups, to see how it comes out.

***Humulus lupulus* Common Hop** Late summer. Up to 20-30' Not only for brewmeisters, although it has been used for brewing for over 1000 years. Beautiful twining vine covers a trellis or archway with green lobed leaves, bristly stems, insignificant greenish flowers, followed by the hops themselves: papery aromatic cone-like strobiles that are used in brewing and insomnia remedies. For brewing, there are basically two types of hops. Aroma hops have lower alpha acids and are used for flavoring, finishing or conditioning brews. Bitter hops have higher alpha acids and are used to impart bitterness. Tolerates shade, adapted to most well-drained soils. Dies back to the ground in fall and rebounds more vigorously each year. Plant it where you want it because you may never get rid of it. No serious pests or diseases. Native to Eurasia. Z3. (5-6" female rhizomes)

Cascade Hops USDA 19124 (Fuggle x Serebrianka-Fuggle S) x open pollinated. Oregon St U, 1972. Fragrantly aromatic, low bittering value. "While it's true that Budweiser waves a frond of this variety over their vats of 'sparkling, fermented rice and corn beverage' Cascade has gained impeccable renown as *the* charismatic hop in such unsurpassable ales as Anchor's 'Liberty Ale', Sierra Nevada's 'Pale Ale' and McNeill's 'Firehouse Amber Ale'. Nothing 'light' about these." This came from a customer whose name I lost. Thanks for your comments! Resistant to downy mildew.

3030 Cascade Hops, bundle of 3, $10.00

Willamette Hops USDA 21003 x Fuggle Seedling 2-4, USDA, 1976. Excellent all-purpose hop. Old English-style aroma with brewing characteristics similar to Fuggle. Low bittering. Spicy aroma. Good finishing hop for brewing English ales and stout. Vigorous. Higher yielding than Fuggle. Ripens midseason (late summer) and has good disease resistance.

3034 Willamette Hops, bundle of 3, $10.00

Hops

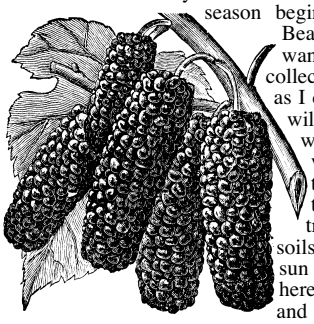
Refrigerate slightly moistened rhizomes in a plastic bag until planting. Hops prefer full sun and light-textured rich well-drained soil, with a pH of 6.5-8.0. As soon as soil can be worked in spring, till to create a weed-free area. Dig holes about one foot deep and at least three feet apart in rows. Add manure, compost and other slow-release organic fertilizers. Plant 2 rhizomes per hole, horizontally with the buds pointed up and cover with 1-2" of loose soil. The first year the hop plant requires frequent light watering and mulching.

Hops grow vertically, with lateral sidearms extending from the main vine and producing cones. Vines may grow up to 25' in a single season, and do best if they are trained onto strong twine 12-30' high, supported by a trellis, wire, pole, tree branch or south-facing building. When the young vines are about 1' long, select the 2 or 3 most vigorous vines per hill and remove the rest. Gently wrap the vines clockwise onto a string. Once trained, the vine will guide itself.

Pick the hops when they are papery but still slightly sticky and filled with yellow powder. Harvest dates will vary with the variety and climate. Because most hops are produced out of reach from the ground, it is safest to lower the vines in order to pick the hops. Dry hops thoroughly before use. Placed on a window screen in a dry attic, they will dry in a few weeks. Dried hops freeze well.

Cut the vines back to the ground after they have been killed by frost. Each spring apply a hearty dose of manure and compost as a top dressing. To help control vigor, prune roots by cutting a 2-3' circle with a shovel around the base of the plant in spring.

***Morus alba* 'Tatarica' Superchilly Mulberry** 30x40' Super Chilly Farm, Palermo, ME, 1983. Selected from a number of small seedlings sent to me from the midwest many years ago. Purple-black sweet blackberry-like fruit with little acidity. Delicious fresh or in sauces and pies. Long fruiting season beginning in mid-July in central Maine. Bears early, reliably and heavily. You may want to put down a sheet of some sort to collect the fruit as it falls. Or graze regularly as I do. What fruit you don't pick, the birds will. Plant it next to the chicken pen and it will "rain" chicken feed for several weeks every summer. One of the last trees to leaf out in the spring and one of the first to set fruit. Dense round-topped tree. Fast growing, even in poor soils;give it lots of room to spread out. Full sun to partial shade. No pest problems up here, withstands pollution, drought, wind and salt. May be set back by winter cold until established, but my 25-year-old tree has taken -25˚ with ease on many occasions. Native of N China and Japan. Z4. **ME Grown.** (18-36" transplants)



3048 Superchilly Mulberry, $20.00

***Prunus japonica* x *P. jacquemontii* Joel Bush Cherry** 4x4' Elwyn Meader introduction, NH. The best of Meader's three bush cherries. Bears three or four quarts of freestone fruit per plant. Similar to Montmorency cherries, excellent for pies and jams. Because it ripens in September, the birds leave them alone, so there is no need to net the shrubs. Pink blossoms in spring are highly ornamental. Prefers well-drained fertile soil and full sun. Self-pollinating. Z3. **ME Grown.** (18-24" transplants)

3076 Joel bush cherry, $20.00

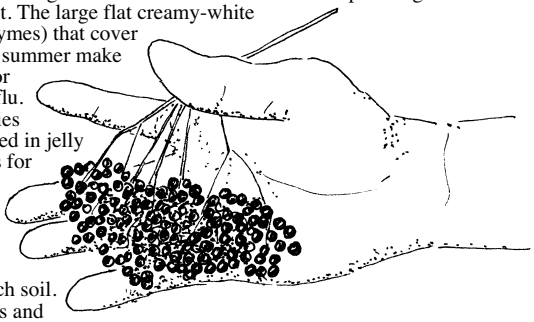
***P. maritima* Beach Plum** 6' x 5-6' Late summer. Rounded dense suckering shrub found along ocean beaches, New Brunswick to Carolinas. Purplish-red 1/2-1" fruit in late summer. Excellent jams, sauces, and especially jelly. Although typically found growing naturally in poor sandy soils, the plants thrive in well-drained fertile soils with a pH of 6-6.5. Additional fertilization will further increase productivity. We suggest an annual 5 gallon bucket or two of compost per plant. Prune to maintain an open center for good light penetration. Plant about 5' apart, at least 2 for pollination. For the past ten years, Cornell University has been testing growing techniques and evaluating thousands of seedlings along the Northeast coast. We'll keep you posted. Salt tolerant! Native to eastern U.S. Z3. **ME Grown.** (12-24" transplants)

3082 Beach Plum, $9.25

***P. tomentosa* Nanking Cherry** 6-10' x same. Broad dense highly ornamental shrub, becoming open and attractively irregular. Pink buds open to masses of fragrant white 3/4" flowers. Deeply veined light green foliage with very fine fuzz (tomentosa) lining each vein underneath. Very tasty tart scarlet 1/2" fruit for pies and jams. Two or three berries will provide your Vitamin C for the day. Excellent hedge plant; prefers full sun in well-drained soil. This is an edible landscape crop that produces a lot of fruit that actually *is* edible! Covering plants with netting will deter birds from robbing your crop. Plant two or more for pollination. Native to China and Japan. Z2. **ME Grown.** (12-18" transplants)

3100 Nanking Cherry, $9.25

***Sambucus canadensis* Elderberry, Sweet** or **Black-Berried Elder** 6-12' x same. Broad vigorous multistemmed shrub with spreading branches and unkempt habit. The large flat creamy-white flower clusters (cymes) that cover the shrub in early summer make delicious fritters or tea for colds and flu. Purple-black berries in late summer used in jelly or pie, are famous for wine and attract many species of birds, beneficial insects, and other wildlife. Best grown in moist rich soil. Free from diseases and insects. Two varieties needed for pollination. Native to eastern U.S. Z3.



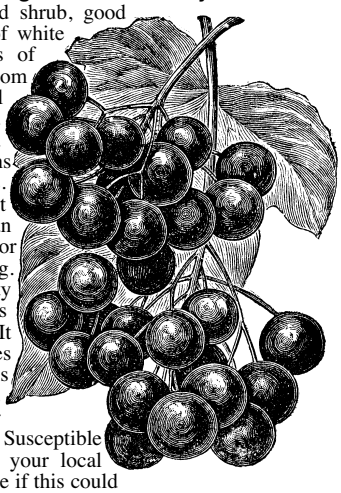
***S. c.* Adams No. 1** Selected by William Adams, Union Springs, NY, 1926. Vigorous strong productive bushes. Large berries and fruit clusters. (1-yr well-rooted plants)

3130 Adams Elderberry, $9.25

***S. c.* Goodbarn** Chance seedling. Elwyn Meader introduction, Rochester, NH. Professor Meader named this 'Goodbarn' because it was the good elderberry growing under the eaves of his barn in New Hampshire. Another of the many fine plants that Elwyn's son John has brought to my attention over the years. Thanks John! Goodbarn is thought to be a polyploid form of *S. c.* with unusual hardiness, vigor and apparent self-fertility. It blooms heavily and produces large crops annually. What it lacks in commercial fruit size it makes up for with its impressive productivity. Excellent for juices, jellies and wines. Z3. **ME Grown.** (12-18" transplants)

3135 Goodbarn Elderberry, $9.25

***Viburnum trilobum* Wentworth Highbush Cranberry** 8-12' Also known as **Crampbark**. Multistemmed shrub, good for screens and hedges, has clusters of white flowers in May. Pendulous bunches of brilliant red-orange berries hang from September to February and are still edible off the bush in midwinter. Berries can be used for jams and preserves and are popular with dozens of bird species, especially waxwings. Flowers help attract and support beneficial insects. Bark used as an anti-spasmodic; tea especially good for relieving menstrual cramping. Wentworth was selected for edibility and large fruit size in the early l900s from a collection of 3000 viburnums. It also features bright lime-green leaves and red fall foliage. Tolerates dry soils if high in organic matter, but prefers rich moist well-drained soils, sun or shade. Soil pH 6-7. Pollution tolerant. Susceptible to viburnum leaf beetle; check with your local extension office or nursery to determine if this could be a problem. Not a bog cranberry (see #**2890**). Native from Canada to NY. Self-pollinating. Z2. (6-18" transplants)



3245 Wentworth Highbush Cranberry, $9.25

Conifers transplanted once in the nursery have a much higher success rate. These conifers are mostly three- to four-year-old transplants. 2-2TR means the plant is 4 years old: 2 years as a seedling and 2 years as a transplant. P+2 means one year as a plug and 2 years as a transplant.

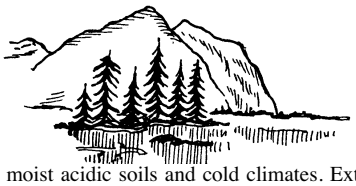
***Abies balsamea* Balsam Fir** 45-75' Often considered the "only real Christmas tree." Fragrant needles are a favorite for wreaths, pillows and potpourri. Small blisters (which are fun to "pop" at other people) on younger trees contain a transparent aromatic resin that native peoples used as an inhalant for headaches and congestion, and as a poultice for burns, cuts and arthritis. Narrow, conical, smooth-barked. Prefers well-drained moist acid soils. Avoid polluted areas. Semi-shade tolerant, slow-growing. Good specimen tree and songbird nesting area, and a favorite browse of moose and deer. The most abundant conifer in Maine, "country of the pointed firs." Native Labrador to PA. Z3. **ME Grown.** (3-2TR 6-12")

3270 Balsam Fir, bundle of 5, $13.50

***Chamaecyparis thyoides* Atlantic White Cedar "Maine Strain"** 40-50' x 10-20' Also called **False Cypress**. Tall slender columnar native with sprays of fine needle-like foliage can reach up to 85' tall. Light grey to reddish-brown bark often spirals around the trunk. Tends to lose its lower branches with age. Round 3" cones. Lightweight soft close-grained slightly fragrant wood for fence posts, boat building and shingles. Recommended as a specimen or grouping for low wet boggy spots. Prefers moist sandy soils and full sun. Typically found growing in large stands in freshwater swamps, bogs and stream banks. Will not compete with hardwoods. Native eastern U.S., Maine to Florida. Z3. **ME Grown.** (12-16" transplants)

3282 White Cedar, Maine Strain, $10.00

***Larix laricina* American Larch** 40-80' x 15-30' Usually called **Tamarack**, **Hackmatack** or just Hack in Maine. Pyramidal deciduous conifer with grey-green foliage that turns soft golden orange before dropping in the fall. First-winter "flat-landers" might think their Hack trees are dead, but they'll green up come spring. Beautiful as a specimen or in a stand. Strongly horizontal branching habit. Incredibly tough wood used for barn floors and other punishing applications. Not a finish wood. It'll twist and check but the cows don't care. Prefers moist acidic soils and cold climates. Extremely hardy, fast growing. Native from the Arctic circle south to northern Pennsylvania. Not recommended in warmer areas. Z1. **ME Grown.** (12-24" transplants)



3325 American Larch, $7.00

***Metasequoia glyptostroboides* Dawn Redwood** 100' One of the most spectacular of all the ornamental trees. The wide irregular trunk looks like something out of a fairy tale with its iridescent golden-orange bark that becomes deeply grooved, hollowed and fluted with age. The bright green deciduous needles turn orange in the fall. Grows quickly, up to 50' in 15-20 years, with many small-diameter horizontal branches and a uniform conical habit. Highly adaptable, easy to transplant. Prefers moist deep well-drained slightly acid soil in full sun. Will tolerate wet or dry sites. Pollution resistant; good specimen or street tree, rarely needs pruning. Fossils dating back 50 million years have been found in Japan. Thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in central China in 1941. Resembles California redwoods only vaguely. Native of China and Japan. Z4. **ME Grown.** (18-24" transplants)

3350 Dawn Redwood, $16.00

Conifers tolerate a wide range of soil conditions, but prefer a pH between 5.5-6.5. If you are planting in dry or well-drained areas, dip tree roots in Agri-gel solution before planting to protect roots from drying out. Do not use Agri-gel in heavy clay soils or wet areas. Do not soak conifers overnight; a good dipping is sufficient.

Before planting, prune off 1/3 of the roots. Dig a small hole or make an incision with a spade or planting bar and slip the tree in to the level it grew in the nursery. Fan the roots out; do not wind them around in the hole. It is much better to prune the roots than to crowd them in the hole. Water well and pack the earth down with your feet to remove air pockets. Young conifers need 3/4-1" of rain per week. Periodic deep waterings are far more beneficial than frequent sprinklings. No fertilization is necessary in the first year. In later years you may fertilize around the drip line.

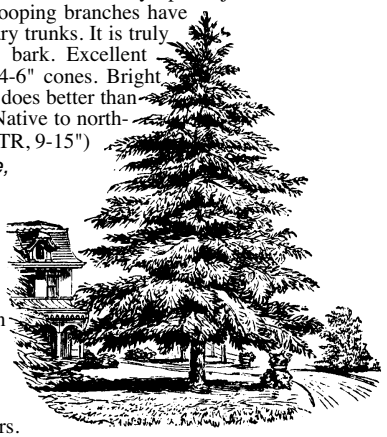
To make evergreens dense and compact, remove leader and center bud on the end of each side branch.

Agri-gel A hydrogel formulation which absorbs and holds water. The swollen crystals adhere to plant roots, reducing transplant shock. Safe, non-toxic, easy to use. Useful for garden seedlings as well as woody plants. Highly recommended for raspberries and conifers. Half-ounce packet mixed with one to three gallons of water will treat up to 100 cane plants, or 50 trees and shrubs. 1/2 oz.

7510 Agri-gel, $2.00

***Picea abies* Norway Spruce** 80' Fast-growing wide-spreading upright picturesque tree with graceful long pendulous branches that often reach the ground. Largest of the spruce. If you go to the Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, MA, don't miss the ancient Norway Spruce just inside the front gate. Several of its massive drooping branches have themselves turned into secondary trunks. It is truly amazing. Orange-brown scaly bark. Excellent lumber. Showy (marketable!) 4-6" cones. Bright green foliage. Prefers loam but does better than other spruces on poorer soils. Native to northern Europe. Z2. **ME Grown.** (2-2TR, 9-15")

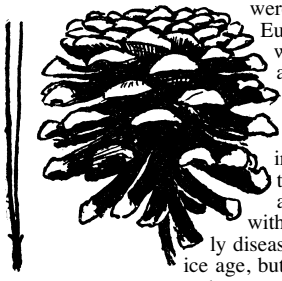
3400 Norway Spruce, bundle of 5, $13.50



***P. pungens glauca* 'Majestic' Colorado Blue Spruce** 30-60' Very popular specimen tree with truer blue foliage than other cultivars. Can be used as a screen, as it is fast growing after 3'. Does not like wet soil. Extra spring nitrogen will improve blue color, which doesn't appear for first few years. Native to western U.S. Z2. **ME Grown.** (2-2TR 6-12")

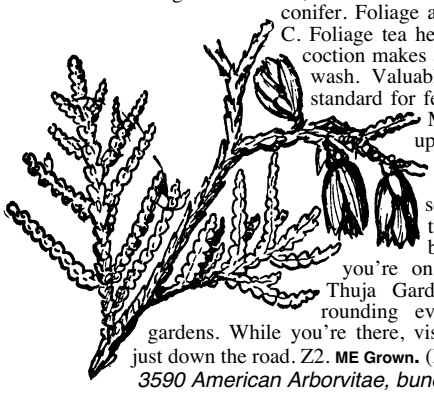
3420 Colorado Blue Spruce, bundle of 5, $13.50

***Pinus resinosa* Red Pine** 50-80' Also known as **Norway Pine**, probably because the first specimens taken to England and planted in Kew Gardens were from Norway, Maine. Others speculate that Europeans first encountered this native tree in what became Norway, Maine. Perhaps both are true. Broad irregular or rounded crown of spreading branches. Long soft 3-8" needles. 1 1/2-2 1/2" egg-shaped cones. Distinctive pinkish-silver scaly plated bark. Fast growing; thrives in poor soil, even sand. Some of the most beautiful specimens in central Maine are growing in a mixture of sand and gravel with apparently no organic matter at all. Relatively disease-free. Nearly became extinct during the last ice age, but making a comeback. You can help! Native to northeastern U.S. and Canada. Z3. **ME Grown.** (P+2, 9-18")



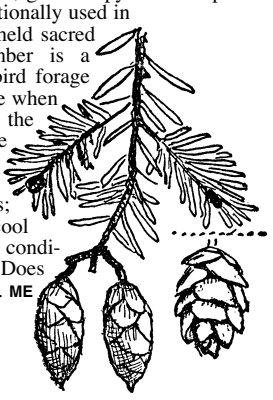
3530 Red Pine, bundle of 5, $13.50

***Thuja occidentalis* Arborvitae** 20-60' Arborvitae means tree of life. Also called **Eastern White Cedar**. Narrow and tall with twiggy branches, soft fibrous orange-brown bark, and flat foliage unlike that of any other conifer. Foliage and bark tea high in vitamin C. Foliage tea helpful in infections, twig decoction makes an anti-viral anti-fungal skin wash. Valuable light fragrant wood, the standard for fence posts and log cabins in Maine. Slow-growing, lives up to 400 years. Thrives in rich moist marshy neutral-to-alkaline soils. Good for screens and hedges. Probably the first North American tree brought to Europe. Next time you're on Mount Desert, check out Thuja Gardens: beautiful cedars surrounding even more beautiful flower gardens. While you're there, visit Asticou Azalea Gardens, just down the road. Z2. **ME Grown.** (P+2, 18-24")



3590 American Arborvitae, bundle of 5, $13.50

***Tsuga canadensis* Eastern Hemlock** 40-70' Also called **Canadian Hemlock**. One of the most beautiful conifers; graceful pyramid shape and feathery short needles. The leaves were traditionally used in teas, the branches in brooms. Groves were held sacred by native peoples. Today, hemlock lumber is a common construction wood. Valuable for bird forage and wildlife cover. Makes an excellent hedge when planted 3-4' apart. Be sure to notice the magnificent hemlock hedge surrounding the grounds if you ever visit the Tanglewood Music Center in the Berkshires. Take an hour to stroll about and look at all the trees; it's quite an arboretum. Prefers moist cool locations, but will tolerate rocky sandy acid conditions; can thrive even in considerable shade. Does not tolerate drought, salt or air pollution. Z3. **ME Grown.** (P+2, 6-12")



3620 Eastern Hemlock, bundle of 5, $13.50

Fedco Trees 2008

PO Box 520 Waterville ME 04903
fax 207-872-8317

from mailing label CC-_____

Deliver to:

Farm or Group Name _____

Name _____

US Mail _____

Town _____ St _____ Zip _____

UPS (include your road name)_____

Town _____ St _____ Zip _____

phone _____

✓ Check this box if you will *not* accept substitutions ❑

Delivery Options ✓ choose one:

❑ **Ship** in mid-April. Our last shipment is April 14.

❑ **Pickup** at Tree Sale in Clinton. Pay no shipping.

❑ **Ship** around April 30. (Add $15 fee to shipping charges.)

Order online
www.fedcoseeds.com
Catalogs and additional order sheets may be downloaded at our website.

Volume Discounts
(only orders received by 12/7/07)
Subtotal over $200 take 10%
over $400 take 15%

Shipping Charges: (we ship by UPS or Priority Mail, our choice)

	minimum	if your **Adjusted Total** is
New England	$7.00	over $70.00, pay 10% of adjusted total
NY, NJ, & PA	$9.00	over $90.00, pay 10% of adjusted total
All other states	$14.00	over $140.00, pay 10% of adjusted total

Orders to **Alaska** go Priority Mail; be sure we have a *Postal Address*

	minimum	if your **Adjusted Total** is
Priority Mail	$14.00	over $70.00, pay 20% of adjusted total

Subtotal from reverse		
Volume Discount	−	
Adjusted Total	=	
ME residents & pickups add 5% **Tax**	+	
Shipping	+	Did you remember the box charge?
Add **$2** if you fax your order	+	
Grand Total	=	

Make checks payable to **Fedco**

Final order deadline March 7, 2008

Shipping Charge		
+ Box charge	+	**$5.00**
Shipping	=	

❑ Donate all my refund to MOFGA
❑ up to $5.00
❑ up to $2.00

We accept Visa or MasterCard Exp. Date

- **Complete ordering information on page 3.**
- Please fill out the address information and totals blocks above. We *must* have a road name for UPS delivery.
- For early delivery of rootstock or for scionwood, send a SASE for the order form or download it from our website.
- If you require Priority Mail delivery, minimum shipping charge is $14 or 20% for orders with an adjusted total over $70.
- We will add a $10 handling fee if you ask us to make adjustments after we have received your order.
- We ship between April 2 and April 14; we will add a $15 handling fee if you specify a shipping date within this period or if you specify shipment around April 30.
- Consider donating your refund to the Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association (MOFGA) Permanent Site Fund.

Fedco Trees 2008: Trees, Shrubs & Plants

	Item #	Number of pkgs.	Number of plants	Description	Price per package	Total Price
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If you are ordering more than 28 items, you may copy this page or our format and submit as many pages as you need.

Subtotal
(carry to other side)

Suggestions:

Fedco Trees 2008

PO Box 520 Waterville ME 04903
fax 207-872-8317

from mailing label CC-_____

Deliver to:

Farm or Group Name _____

Name _____

US Mail _____

Town _____ St _____ Zip _____

UPS (include your road name)_____

Town _____ St _____ Zip _____

phone _____

✓ Check this box if you will *not* accept substitutions ❑

Delivery Options ✓ choose one:

❑ **Ship** in mid-April. Our last shipment is April 14.

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Shipping Charges: (we ship by UPS or Priority Mail, our choice)

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New England	$7.00	over $70.00, pay 10% of adjusted total
NY, NJ, & PA	$9.00	over $90.00, pay 10% of adjusted total
All other states	$14.00	over $140.00, pay 10% of adjusted total

Orders to **Alaska** go Priority Mail; be sure we have a *Postal Address*

	minimum	if your **Adjusted Total** is
Priority Mail	$14.00	over $70.00, pay 20% of adjusted total

Subtotal from reverse		
Volume Discount	−	
Adjusted Total	=	
ME residents & pickups add 5% **Tax**	+	
Shipping	+	Did you remember the box charge?
Add **$2** if you fax your order	+	
Grand Total	=	

Make checks payable to **Fedco**

Final order deadline March 7, 2008

Shipping Charge		
+ Box charge	+	**$5.00**
Shipping	=	

❑ Donate all my refund to MOFGA
❑ up to $5.00
❑ up to $2.00

We accept Visa or MasterCard Exp. Date

- **Complete ordering information on page 3.**
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- We will add a $10 handling fee if you ask us to make adjustments after we have received your order.
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- Consider donating your refund to the Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association (MOFGA) Permanent Site Fund.

Fedco Trees 2008: Trees, Shrubs & Plants

	Item #	Number of pkgs.	Number of plants	Description	Price per package	Total Price
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If you are ordering more than 28 items, you may copy this page or our format and submit as many pages as you need.

Subtotal
(carry to other side)

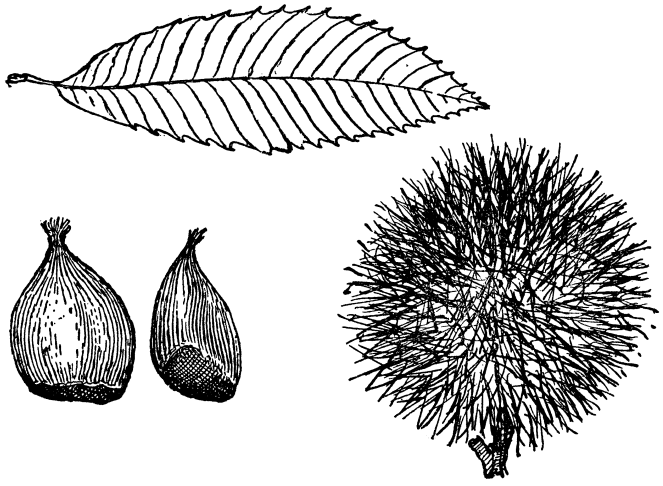
Suggestions:

Nut Trees

Other than hazelnuts, nut trees should be planted 50' apart for nut production, 20' apart for lumber. **At least two trees of each species are required for pollination**.

***Castanea dentata* American Chestnut** Up to 100' Once again we're offering seedlings of pure American chestnuts, from seeds collected in Maine by the Maine chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation. Before 1900, American chestnut was the predominant and most important deciduous tree in the eastern U.S. The arrow-straight rot-resistant wood was used for everything from mine timbers to musical instruments. Heavy annual crops of delicious sweet nuts were an important food for wildlife and humans. When cut down, the trees quickly grew back from the stump. The Asian fungus *Cryphonetria parasitica* (chestnut blight, formerly named *Endothia parasitica*) was discovered in Brooklyn in 1904, and within 50 years it had killed virtually every chestnut tree in the eastern U.S. Recently I read an article suggesting a connection between the demise of the passenger pigeon and that of the chestnut: apparently they had a symbiotic relationship. The blight does not kill the roots however, and rare isolated stands of mature trees can still be found. The trees we're offering are blight-susceptible, but will probably thrive if there is no active blight infection within a mile. Mine are now 20' tall and look fantastic. Fast-growing and straight-trunked with a wide-branching magnificent rounded crown. Ribbed sharp-toothed dark lustrous green foliage. Yellow fall color. Fragrant white blooms in July. Prefers well-drained sandy or gravelly acid (pH 5.0–6.0) soil and sun for half the day. Two or more needed for pollination, but will cross-pollinate with Asian and European chestnuts. Space trees 20–40 feet apart. Precocious, bearing heavy crops of nuts in 10 years. From each American chestnut purchase, Fedco will donate $4 to support the work of the American Chestnut Foundation who tell us that blight-resistant trees will be available in 2018! Z4. **ME Grown.** (12-18" transplants)

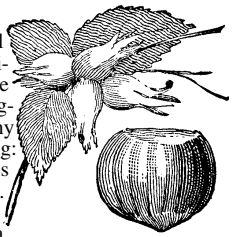
3760 American Chestnut, $18.00



***C. mollissima* x *C. dentata* Douglass Hybrid Chestnut** Earl Douglass introduction, Red Creek, NY. American chestnuts have been frequently crossed with Asian species in the hopes of imparting blight resistance. Douglass is one of the best known of these crosses. The nuts are large, very flavorful and ripen early. It is late flowering and has good blight resistance, though not immunity. The tree is more upright in habit than the Chinese Chestnut. These are seedling trees and will vary in form and fruit. Z4-5. **ME Grown.** (12-18" transplants)

3769 Douglass Hybrid Chestnut, $15.00

ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop



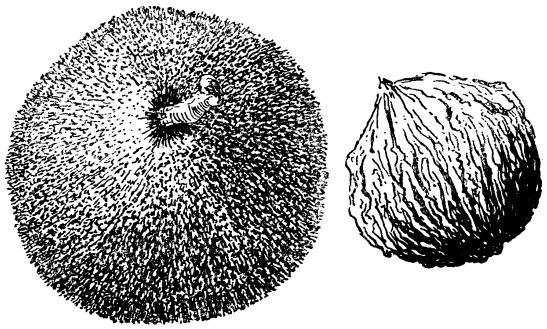
***Corylus spp.* Filberts** Suckering multistemmed rounded shrub or small tree with showy catkins in spring and edible nuts. One of six genera in the birch family, there are nine recognized Corylus species and many crosses. None are self pollinating; at least two seedlings or clones must be planted for pollination. Both of our offerings are seedlings. Plant 2-8' apart to create a hedge and ensure good pollination. Squirrels and blue jays will begin stealing the nuts as soon as they're ripe, so pay attention and collect the crop as soon as the husks begin to turn brown and lose their sticky yellowness. Cure nuts in their husks for a couple of weeks and then shell them. You can even stomp off the dry shells in a big tub as if you were juicing grapes. Prefers well-drained soils, with pH 5.0-7.0. Full sun or light shade. Annually cutting out some suckers will keep your stand from becoming too shrubby. Responds positively to an annual compost application.

***C. americana* American Hazelnut** or **American Filbert** 15-18' x 10-15' Very good 1/2" nuts. Somewhat smaller but much hardier than the various foreign hybrids: hazelberts and filazels. Not our local wild beaked filbert, which is smaller and prickly to handle. Ripens around the third week of September in central Maine. Dark green serrated foliage. Highly resistant or immune to filbert blight. Native to eastern North America. Plant 8' apart. Z4. **ME Grown.** (20-36" transplants)

3785 American Hazelnut, $13.00

***C.* x *hybrid* Precocious Hazelbert** 12x12' This hybrid hazelbert (or hazelnut) was developed by Oikos Tree Crops in Michigan from selected filazels and hazelberts. It includes both American and European parentage. Fedco grower Anne Hallee received Precocious nuts from Oikos and has been growing them out. Vigorous shrubby suckering plant takes 3-4 years to bear. Medium-sized nut. Plant at least two for pollination. Good resistance to filbert blight. Z4. **ME Grown.** (16-24" transplants)

3799 Hazelbert Precocious, $13.00

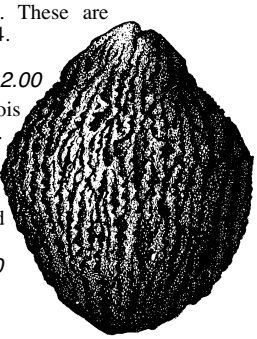


***Juglans nigra* Black Walnut** 70-90' Magnificent open rounded crown of massive limbs with dark green leaves. Highly valued cabinet and veneer wood. Thick-shelled edible nuts have an intense distinctive flavor. Their husks yield a rich brown dye. Husks, leaves and roots all have anti-fungal properties. Deep taproot. Prefers moist well-drained soils, pH 6-7. Roots give off a compound, juglone, which inhibits competing plants, so don't plant one too close to your garden. Native to eastern U.S. though not quite into Maine. Z4. **ME Grown.** (3 yr 3-4')

3815 Black Walnut, $11.00

***J. n.* 'Elmer Myers' Black Walnut** Ohio selection. Tall straight habit with high nut production. Pearly white sweet mild flesh with barely any bitter aftertaste. Thinner shell than 'Emma K' but a bit trickier to crack because of its four pronounced deep lobes. These are seedling trees and will vary in form and fruit. Z4. **ME Grown.** (16-24" transplants)

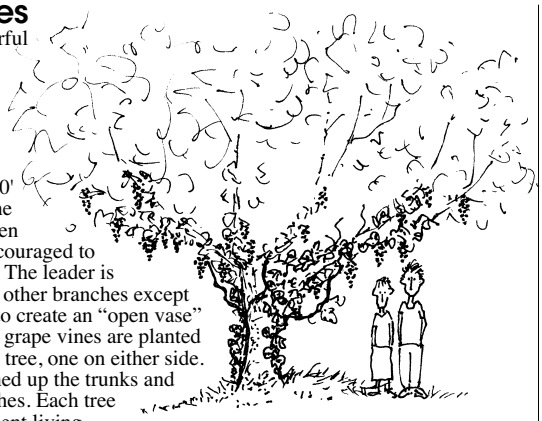
3820 Elmer Myers Black Walnut, $12.00



***J. n.* 'Emma K' Black Walnut** central Illinois selection. Maybe a seedling of 'Elmer Myers'. Sweet almost hazelnut flavor with buttery texture. Smooth football-shaped nuts have comparatively thin shells. Productive tree. These are seedling trees and will vary in form and fruit. Z4. **ME Grown.** (16-24" transplants)

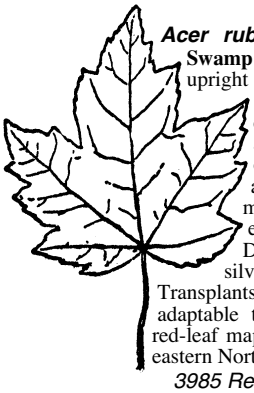
3831 Emma K Black Walnut, $12.00

Shade Trees



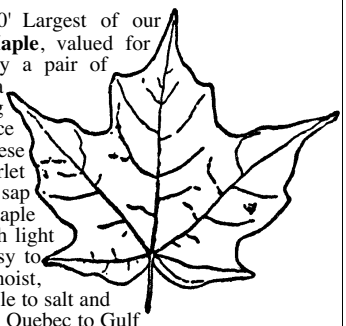
have many wonderful qualities and uses. Here's one I learned while visiting farms in Italy last fall. Maples are set out in a grid pattern, 30' between trees in the row and 30' between rows. They are encouraged to branch at about 6'. The leader is removed as are all other branches except for four branches to create an "open vase" arrangement. Two grape vines are planted at the base of each tree, one on either side. The vines are trained up the trunks and out onto the branches. Each tree becomes a permanent living trellis. In late fall, vines are pruned to maintain health and productivity. The maples are also pruned annually to maintain the arbor shape. Keep the trimmings for firewood!

Each year we offer some of our favorites. Other larger trees throughout the catalog that will provide shade include all the apples (pages 8-15), all the conifers (p. 30), some of the nuts (p. 31), several crabapples (pp. 35-36), and the Japanese tree lilac (p. 34).



Acer rubrum **Red Maple** 50-60' Also known as **Swamp Maple**. Usually has a central leader and an upright growth habit, compared to the bushier sugar maple. In early spring the dark red flowers cover the driveway long before any leaves appear. In the fall the foliage turns electric orange, yellow, and brilliant red. The astounding combinations of colors surround me as I head off in my truck to go apple exploring every October. Excellent in the yard. Does not have the weak branching problems of silver maple. Sometimes tapped for sap in spring. Transplants easily. Prefers moist acid conditions but is adaptable to dry locations. Note that this is *not* the red-leaf maple *A. platanoides* 'Crimson King'. Native to eastern North America. Z3. **ME Grown.** (3-4' transplants)

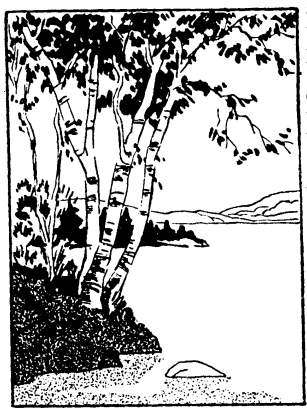
3985 Red Maple, $16.00



A. saccharum **Sugar Maple** 50-100' Largest of our native maples, also known as **Rock Maple**, valued for shade, syrup, and lumber. Traditionally a pair of sugar maples was planted in front of a farmhouse on the inhabitants' wedding day. Those "wedding trees" still grace many Maine front yards after all these years. Famous for its yellow gold scarlet and crimson fall foliage and its fresh sap which is boiled down to make real maple syrup. Huge upright spreading form with light grey bark. Shade tolerant, making it easy to interplant in existing woods. Prefers moist, well-drained soils. Cold hardy. Susceptible to salt and air pollution; not a good city tree. Native Quebec to Gulf Coast. Z3. (2 yr transplants, 3-4')

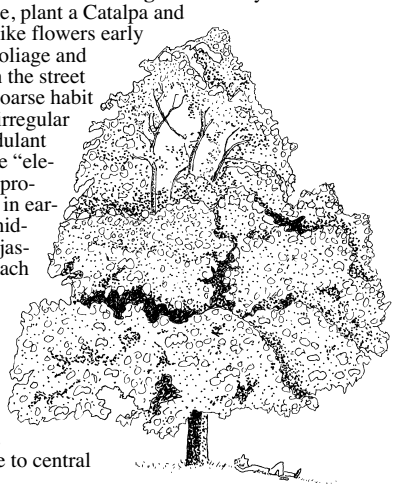
3990 Sugar Maple, $16.00

Betula papyrifera **Paper Birch, Canoe Birch** or **White Birch Clump** 30-70' x 30' Medium-sized tree with an irregular oval shape, upright angled branches and magnificent chalk-white peeling bark. Deep green foliage produces light shade in summer and turns clear yellow in fall. Birds prize the catkins, buds and seeds. Twigs are a favorite deer browse. Bark traditionally used for canoes, containers and roofing. I've even seen it used as an amazing wallpaper. Wood quite valuable at the sawmill. Sap makes an excellent "maple" syrup. Branches, stuck into the ground, make great pea fencing. Prefers moist well-drained acid soil though ours thrive on ledge. At its best in Zone 4 or colder, but grows well as far south as Pennsylvania, about Zone 6. Native to northern North America. Each clump will include three trunks. (clump of 3, 3-4')



4017 Paper Birch Clump, $22.00

Catalpa speciosa **Northern Catalpa** 40-60' Also known as **Western Catalpa**, **Elephant Ear Tree**, **Catawba** and **Cigar Tree**. If you can't afford orchids for that special someone, plant a Catalpa and you'll be swimming in orchid-like flowers early every summer. With its form, foliage and flowers, this tree looks great on the street and in the yard. Fast-growing coarse habit with a somewhat narrow open irregular crown and thick interesting undulant branches. Dense foliage of huge "elephant ear" heart-shaped leaves provides excellent shade. Covered in early summer with clusters of orchid-like ruffled incredibly fragrant jasmine-scented white blossoms each dotted with purple and spotted with rich buttery yellow radiating from the throat. Fruits are long bean-like "cigar" pods. Prefers deep moist fertile soil, but thrives in almost any conditions and soils, sun or partial shade. Grows rapidly. Remains dormant late into spring. Native to central U.S. Z4. (3-5' transplants)

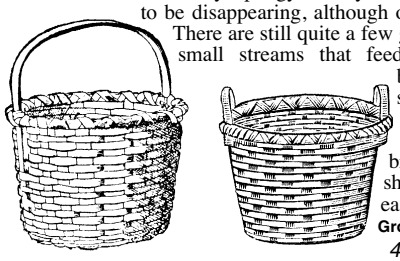


4030 Northern Catalpa, $13.00

Cladrastis kentukea **American Yellowwood** 40-50' x same, but may grow much larger. This is an open-formed flowering tree with a dense canopy, capable of attaining tremendous size. The one at the Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge has an amazing 110' spread and three gigantic main trunks. You could hold the ultimate family reunion under it and not even know it was raining. (Actually some dappled sunshine does sneak through.) Masses of hanging fragrant white racemes bloom in spring and attract every bee in the neighborhood. Hardly a crack or groove in the smooth grey beech-like bark that yearns for the lover's carving knife. Alternate pinnately compound yellow-green foliage turns golden-yellow in fall. And of course, yellow lumber. Well-drained soils, pH adaptable. Full sun. No disease. Native to eastern U.S. Z4. **ME Grown.** (18-24" transplants)

4053 American Yellowwood, $16.50

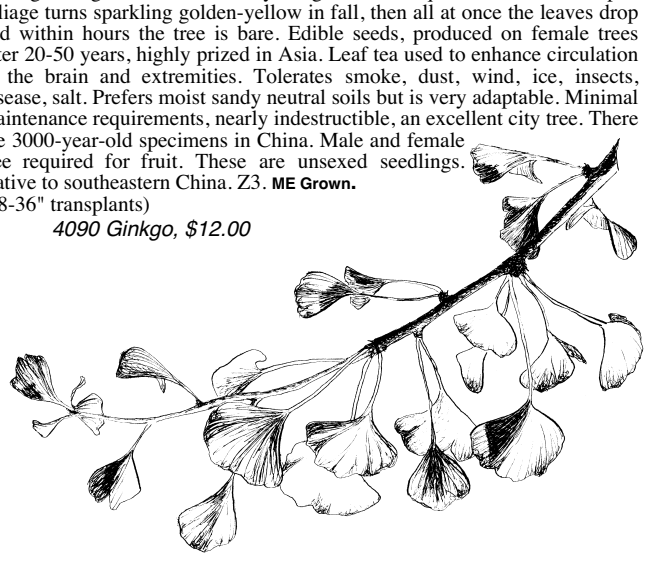
Fraxinus nigra **Brown** or **Black Ash** 30-50' x 15-25' Called Black Ash elsewhere, always known as Brown Ash in Maine. Tall slender tree with a short narrow crown prefers rich moist ground, wet swamplands and stream banks. The bark is corky, spongy, chalky, and rubs off in your hands. Seems to be disappearing, although once common in the Northeast. There are still quite a few growing in my woods along the small streams that feed Turner Pond. Preferred by basketmakers because it easily splits into strips. Once commonly used for barrel hoops, it also makes a rich brown cabinet wood. Partial shade, pH adaptable. Native to eastern U.S. and Canada. Z2. **ME Grown.** (2-4')



4080 Brown Ash, $13.00

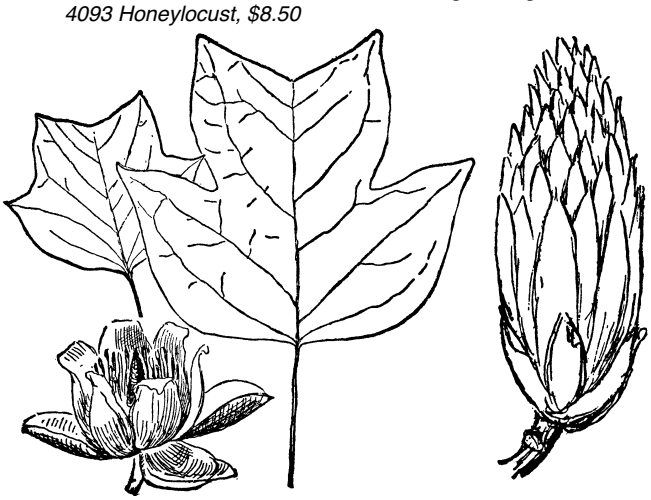
Ginkgo biloba **Ginkgo** 50-80' Also called **Maidenhair Tree**. Considered the oldest living genus of seed plants; grew in North America in the time of the dinosaurs. Upright when young with branches that spike out and up like the rays of the sun, eventually becoming wide-spreading and graceful. Slow-growing, can be extremely long-lived. Unique fine-cut fan-shaped foliage turns sparkling golden-yellow in fall, then all at once the leaves drop and within hours the tree is bare. Edible seeds, produced on female trees after 20-50 years, highly prized in Asia. Leaf tea used to enhance circulation to the brain and extremities. Tolerates smoke, dust, wind, ice, insects, disease, salt. Prefers moist sandy neutral soils but is very adaptable. Minimal maintenance requirements, nearly indestructible, an excellent city tree. There are 3000-year-old specimens in China. Male and female tree required for fruit. These are unsexed seedlings. Native to southeastern China. Z3. **ME Grown.** (18-36" transplants)

4090 Ginkgo, $12.00



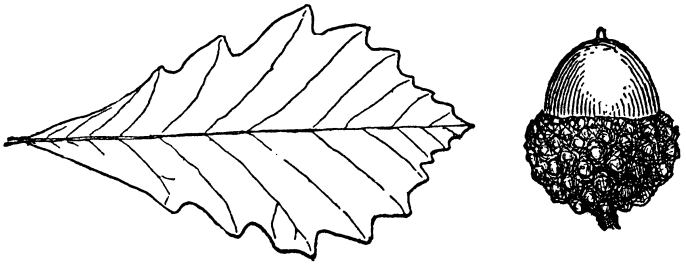
***Gleditsia triacanthos* Honeylocust** 50' x 30-35' Beautiful fast-growing pyramidal leguminous nitrogen-fixing tree. Fabulously fragrant spring flowers. Bright green lacy leaves provide filtered light, making it good for "two-storey" agriculture or great shade for the lawn. Sugary pods suitable for cattle or pig forage or even ethanol. Traditionally pods were dried, ground and used in flour. Plant in full sun, any well-drained soil, even loves the sandy hills of Cape Cod. Tolerates drought, pollution, salt, disease and insects. Transplants easily. Good erosion control. Frequently used as a street tree. Native to eastern U.S. Z4. **ME Grown.** (1/4-1/2" caliper transplants)

4093 Honeylocust, $8.50



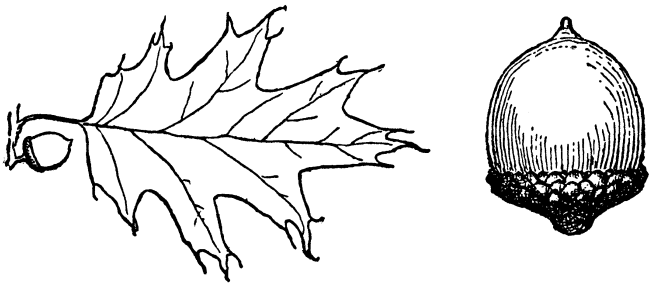
***Liriodendron tulipifera* Tulip Tree** or **Tulip Poplar** 70-90' x 50-100' Lining the two drives that lead to the Watson Building in the New York Botanic Gardens are four rows of tulip trees. Three rows of 6 and one row of 9: 27 in all. Each tree has a huge single central leader, roughly three feet at the butt. They form an immense solid canopy creating complete shade below. Amazingly enough, they seem a bit cramped, even spaced 55' apart. One specimen—perhaps the original and inspiration for the planting—is set back slightly off line. Its trunk is larger than the others and with more room to move, the spread is 110'. Large undulating horizontal branching with masses of foliage; a magnificent shade tree. Decorated with tulip-like flowers in late spring. Each 6-petaled light yellow flower is ornamented with a bright orange band that extends from petal to petal, visible inside and out. Deeply grooved silvery-grey bark. Flat green foliage turns golden-yellow in fall. Will adapt itself to more narrow settings. Recently I saw one that was *only* 40' wide. Doing well in one Zone 4 nursery but should be considered iffy in most of Maine until we do further trials. Prefers full sun and deep moist well-drained slightly acid loam. Native to eastern U.S. Z5 or maybe Z4. **ME Grown.** (3 1/2-6')

4114 Tulip Tree, $16.00



***Quercus bicolor* Swamp White Oak** or **Bicolor Oak** 50-60' x same. A massive rounded shade tree with a short deeply ridged trunk and a fan of branches, the uppermost ascending and the lower drooping. The contrast between the light grey bark and the dark trunk fissures is particularly striking. Called Swamp White in recognition of its affinity for the wild low wetlands that once peppered eastern North America before the days of the parking lot and the big box. Called Bicolor because its large thick leathery lobed leaves have a glossy dark green upper surface and a white to greyish-green hairy felty underside. Its large 1 1/2" sweet acorns are highly attractive to wildlife, particularly water fowl, sapsuckers and (ugh) squirrels. Its yellow to reddish-purple fall foliage persists until spring. Prefers moist, acid soils where drainage is poor, but exhibits excellent drought resistance as well. Very fast growing once established. Native to northeastern U.S. Z3. (2-3' transplants)

4150 Swamp White Oak, $14.00



***Q. rubra* Red Oak** 60-80' Also called **Northern Red Oak**. The most common oak in northern New England and a common tree in central Maine. Typically a single large trunk dividing into several large ascending spreading branches. While the branches are not as massive as some of the other oaks, its open rounded crown is magnificent. The trunk is a deep grey textured web of surfaces overlaid one upon another. Sharply toothed foliage turns orange-tan during apple season. The 1" acorns feed the native population and sprout with ease more or less wherever they land. Fast growing, up to two feet per year. Prefers well-drained sandy slightly acid soils. Those on my farm thrive in the shallow ledgey ground. Tolerates shade, compacted soil, salt, pollution and other urban conditions. Eastern U.S. Z4. **ME Grown.** (12-24" transplants)

4170 Red Oak, $12.00

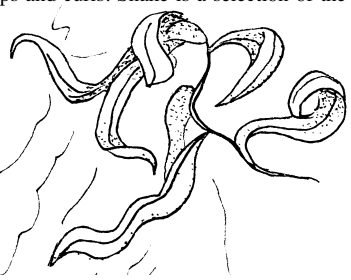
***Salix* spp. 'Cape Rosier' Basket Willow** 50' more or less. If you're looking to make a basket, a bowl or maybe a boat this could be the only material you need. Beautiful subtly golden-colored basket willow propagated from the old Nearing Homestead on Cape Rosier, ME. Their trees are pollarded, a European pruning technique of severely cutting back the main branches to enhance the formation of long whips for basket-making. This enables easy annual spring harvesting and controls the size of the tree. In time, the trees develop a gnarly head which has great character. Stanley Joseph, homesteader on Cape Rosier and neighbor of the Nearings, used this willow for many years to make everything from baskets to the traditional Irish boat, the coracle. Many years ago, with Stanley's encouragement, I first planted basket willows at my home in Palermo. Prefers sun and moist soils. Z4. **ME Grown.** (3-4')

4190 Cape Rosier Willow, $16.00

***S. alba* 'Tristis' Niobe Weeping Willow** 50x50' The classic weeping willow, a very large majestic graceful wide-spreading tree. Golden drooping branches can hang to the ground. Branches used for basket weaving; golden bark and leaves used medicinally. Not to be confused with the Whomping Willow of Hogwarts—branches sway freely in the breeze but are unlikely to attack, though roots have been known to disrupt plumbing. Easily transplanted and fast growing. Prefers sun and moist soils. Native to southern Europe and western Asia. Z4. **ME Grown.** (3-6' transplants)

4195 Niobe Weeping Willow, $10.00

***S. matsudana* 'Snake' Snake WIllow** 30-50' A fast-growing wide oval tree with distinctively curled wiggled and twisted branches. The twigs look like sine waves—or maybe the stock market. Even the foliage loops and curls. Snake is a selection of the standard contorted 'Tortuosa' willow with an even more wild branching habit. Interesting in the yard and beautiful in a wreath or a vase. Quite nice as a young specimen. Keep it pruned and small if you like. Drought tolerant, although like other willows, it'll thrive in a moist location. Native to Argentina. Generally considered a Zone 5 plant, although you might find it does well in Zone 4. **ME Grown.** (2-4' tranplants)



4200 Snake Willow, $9.00

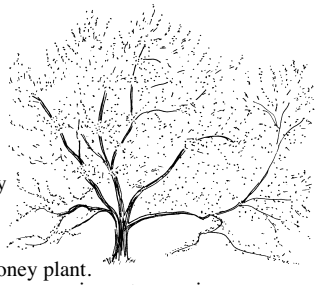
***Tilia americana* American Linden** 60-80' Also known as **Basswood**. Tall stately tree with rounded crown and numerous low-hung spreading branches. Good for attracting bees no matter how remote the location. Sweetly fragrant yellow June flowers reputed to make the best honey, also a popular after-dinner tea and stomach remedy. I consider it the best soft carving wood. Inner bark, tough and fibrous, is used for ropes and nets. Young fruit and flowers can be ground into a paste as a chocolate substitute. Yellow fall color. Likes deep rich moist soils, but will grow in dry heavier soils. Full sun or partial shade. Sensitive to salt and pollution. Tolerates alkaline soil. Subject to Japanese beetles and other insect damage, though control measures are seldom needed. May live to 900 years. Native from New Brunswick to Virginia. Z3. (3-4' transplants)

4205 American Linden, $12.00

Ornamental Trees

Although some of these smaller trees are large enough to provide shade and others provide excellent wildlife habitat, their chief attribute tends to be their beauty. Some have spectacular blooms while others have amazing foliage, fragrance, bark, branch structure or overall appearance. All deserve to be planted more often.

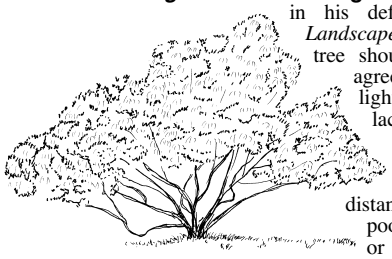
Cercis canadensis **Redbud** 25-30' Small irregularly vase-shaped tree is one of the most wonderful ornamentals. In early spring, clusters of small brilliant purplish-pink pea-like flowers are so abundant they fill the entire tree; they dot the graceful branches and even come right out of the trunk. Truly an astonishing sight. Very large, up to 7", heart-shaped leaves emerge a beautiful opaque pink, gradually mature to deep green and turn bright yellow in fall. 2-3" flat leguminous pods. Excellent honey plant.



Sun or partial shade, soil adaptable. Fine as a specimen tree or in groups. Needs sweating before planting to break dormancy, instructions on page 4. Native to central and eastern U.S. Z4. (3-4' transplants)

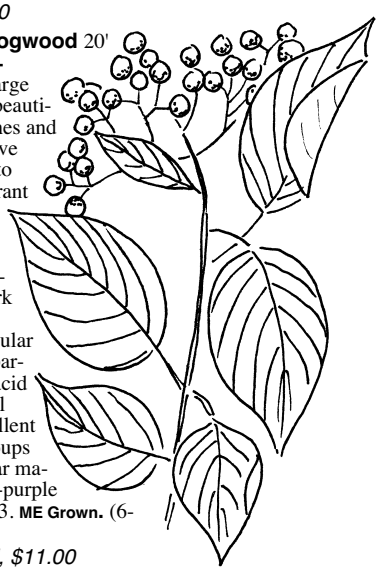
4240 Redbud, $18.00

Chionanthus virginicus **White Fringe Tree** 15-30' x 30' Michael Dirr, in his definitive *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, suggests that fringe tree should be our national shrub. I agree. So completely covered with lightly fragrant clouds of feathery lacey white flower-clusters in spring that you can hardy see the beautiful glossy rich dark green foliage. From a distance, it looks like a tree with a poof. Large multistemmed shrub or small tree with an open spreading rounded form. Spectacular as a specimen, in groups, borders, near buldings. Small bluish-black fruit sought by birds. Adaptable, but prefers moist fertile acid soil. Tolerates air pollution; does well in cities. Native of eastern U.S. Z3. (18-24" transplants)



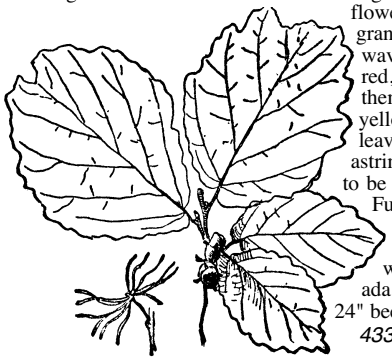
4245 Fringe tree, $16.00

Cornus alternifolia **Pagoda Dogwood** 20' x 30-35' Also known as **Alternate-Leaved Dogwood**. Small tree or large multistemmed shrub, particularly beautiful for its tiers of horizontal branches and their distinct sympodial (consecutive "Y"s) branching habit right down to the smallest twigs. Extremely fragrant white 2-3" flower clusters in mid-late spring, followed by immature olive-green berries, each tipped with a tiny bright yellow style remnant. In midsummer clusters of dark blue berries ripen above the blue-green foliage. One of the most popular dogwoods with the birds. Prefers partial shade and moist well-drained acid soil, but tolerates full sun, poor soil and even clay. pH adaptable. Excellent naturalized as a specimen or in groups and often found growing with sugar maple, beech and basswood. Reddish-purple fall color. Native to eastern U.S. Z3. **ME Grown.** (6-24" beefy plants)



4255 Pagoda Dogwood, $11.00

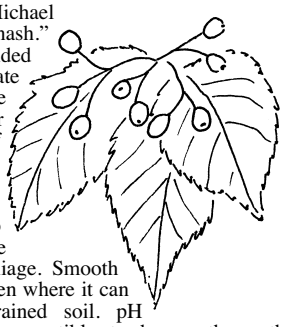
Hamamelis virginiana **Witch Hazel** 20-30' A small tree or large shrub of irregular rounded form and interesting crooked branches. Yellow 1/2" flowers with a unique fresh fragrance appear in the fall. Oval wavy-edged foliage opens ruddy red, matures to a matte green and then climaxes a brilliant golden-yellow. Witch hazel extract, from leaves, young bark and roots, has astringent and antiseptic uses. Said to be the preferred wood of dowsers. Full sun or shade. Prefers moist acid soils; avoid dry spots. No pests or diseases, does well with very little care. Native Canada to Georgia. Z3. **ME Grown.** (6-24" beefy plants)



4332 Witch Hazel, $9.50

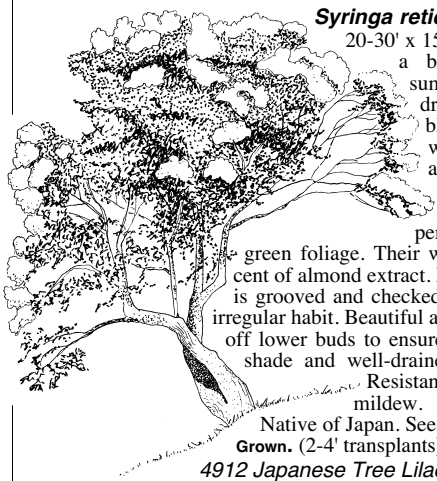
Malus **Crabapples** *4530-4839* on pages 35-36.

Sorbus alnifolia **Korean Mountain Ash** 30-50' x 20-30' In his classic *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, Michael Dirr calls this "the best of the mountainash." Upright multitrunked medium-sized rounded tree. Large showy bright white delicate umbel-like flowers in spring make the tree alive with the hum of bees. You can hear them 50' away. Spectacular fall show of bright scarlet berries, excellent for bird forage or a very decent jelly. Attractive opaque bluish-green foliage reminiscent of beech leaves turns beautiful orange to scarlet-purple in the fall. Does not have the typical mountain ash compound foliage. Smooth silvery grey bark. At its best as a specimen where it can be seen. Will thrive in any well-drained soil. pH adaptable. Disease resistant and less susceptible to borers than other mountain ash. Not recommended for urban conditions. Native to eastern Asia. Z3. **ME Grown.** (2-4' transplants)



4901 Korean Mountain Ash, $12.00

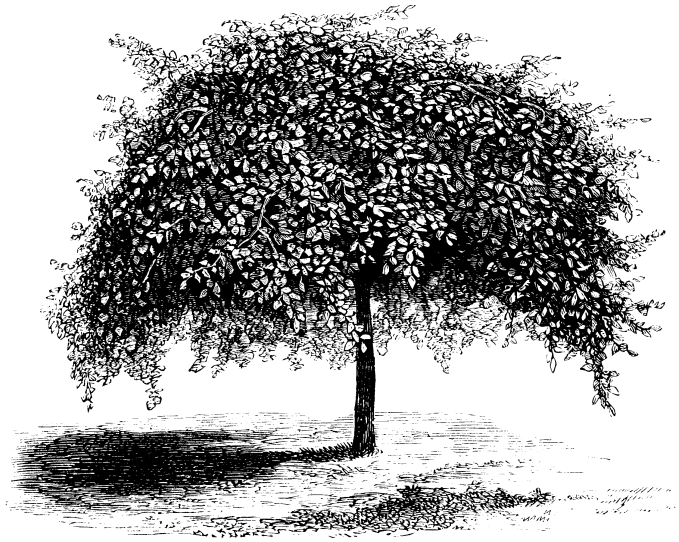
Syringa reticulata **Japanese Tree Lilac** 20-30' x 15-25' What a treat to sit beneath a blooming tree lilac in early summer with fragrant petals dropping all around as the bumblebees work the last snow-white blossoms. Large lacy triangular creamy-white panicles—each made up of countless tiny 4-petaled flowers—perch above the canopy of dark green foliage. Their wonderful fragrance is reminiscent of almond extract. Reddish brown cherry-like bark is grooved and checked. The tree itself has a rounded irregular habit. Beautiful as a specimen or in groups. Strip off lower buds to ensure tree form. Full sun to partial shade and well-drained soil, with a pH of 6.5-8. Resistant to lilac borers and powdery mildew. Salt- and drought-tolerant. Native of Japan. See page 43 for other lilacs. Z3. **ME Grown.** (2-4' transplants)



4912 Japanese Tree Lilac, $13.50

Ulmus glabra **'Camperdownii' Camperdown Elm** 15x30' Discovered in 1640 in Dundee, Scotland, by the Earl of Camperdown who recognized its unique and wonderful shape, and grafted it onto a Scotch or Wych elm (*U. glabra*). All the Camperdown elms in the world come from that original tree. Low-growing mounded very wide-spreading weeping form. Somewhat contorted branches laden with thick dark green summer foliage hang to the ground, creating a protected "room" which looks quite dense from the outside, but is completely open on the inside—plenty of space for a table and chairs. To establish a weeping habit at the height you desire, follow instructions on page 35 for weeping crab. The leaves, much larger than the familiar American elm's, turn yellow in autumn. Many older specimens of this amazing tree are thriving around the state, including those by the Camden amphitheater and the two next to the Maine State Capitol's entryway, overlooking the Kennebec River. Not susceptible to Dutch elm disease. Prefers well-drained moist fertile soils. Z4-5. **ME Grown.** (2-3' grafted trees)

4923 Camperdown Elm, $40.00



Malus Flowering and Culinary Crabapples

Crabapples have a wonderful presence in the yard. We avoid the typical garish big-box offerings in favor of interesting and little-known varieties. We constantly look out for the best: small to medium-sized trees with four-season interest. Magnificent spring blooms, clean vibrant summer foliage, showy fall and winter fruit, and eye-catching shapes and branching habits year-round. Some produce masses of persistent fruit that will attract birds all winter and into spring; others produce fruit for the jelly jar or no fruit at all. I limit pruning to a touch-up here and there, allowing each to express its unique identity.

A crabapple is an apple with fruit smaller than 2" in diameter. Of the 24 recognized species of apples, most are considered to be crabs. My own love of crabapples stems (pardon the pun) largely from visits to the excellent collections in the Arnold Arboretum in Boston and the Lyle Littlefield Gardens in Orono. The Arnold has one of the most extensive collections in the world. The best book is John Fiala's definitive text, *Flowering Crabapples: The Genus Malus*.

Most crabapples bloom annually in May just before the lilacs and make excellent pollinators for any apple. (3½-6' trees)

Blanche Ames 25x25' *M. spectabilis* 'Riversii' x open pollinated. (AA-6639) Karl Sax introduction, Arnold Arboretum, 1947. Fairly tall wide-spreading semi-weeping form, open and picturesque. A very nicely shaped tree with an interesting curvy branch structure that you can see right through. Magnificent in bloom. Pale apricot-pink buds open to small white slightly-cupped long-stemmed star-like flowers each with 11-16 petals. The whole tree appears to be draped with foliage and flowers like a million stars in a deep green sky. The effect is mounded and stunning. Small yellow-gold fruit. A treat to behold year-round. Named in honor of the botantical illustrator, wife of one of the Arnold Arboretum's past directors. Z4 perhaps Z3. **ME Grown.**

4530 Blanche Ames, $20.00

Charlottae 20' x 20-25' (*M. coronaria* var. *dasycalyx* 'Charlottae') Waukegan, Ill, 1902. Chance seedling of *M. coronaria*, the native crab of eastern U.S. Breathtaking even before bloom with its plump buds, blushed a faint apricot-pink and veined like a peppermint stick ice cream cone. In full bloom it takes on a peachy pink hue, with semi-double to double 1½ cupped whitish flowers with yellow stamens, 12-20 petals per bloom, each petal reverse still veined in red. Spectacular. The flowers have a wonderful subtle fragrance. A bowl of the fragrant greenish-yellow fruit will scent the whole room. Medium-sized rounded form, with a trunk of shaggy grey and beech-like smooth silver branches that give the tree an almost skeletal appearance in winter. Said to be disease susceptible, but not that I've seen. Late blooming. Z4. **ME Grown.**

4553 Charlottae, $20.00

Dolgo 25x30' Summer. From seed collected by NE Hansen of *M.* x *robusta* in 1897 at the Imperial Botanical Gardens, St. Petersburg, Russia. (*Dolgo* means 'long' in Russian.) Introduced in the U.S. in 1917. *The* classic culinary crab still found in old Maine backyards. Apricot-pink buds and large fragrant 2" pure white single flowers bloom early. Beautiful purple-red 1½" teardrop-shaped fruit makes flavorful clear ruby-red jelly. In recent years the aromatic very sweet, very acidic fruit has found favor with hard cider makers. Also useful for canning and pickling. Vigorous large blocky upright spreading tree consistently yields abundant crops. Lower branches will drape to the ground if left unpruned. Dependable pollinator for all apples. Parent of many named varieties including Centennial, Kerr and Spring Snow. Quite hardy. Z2. **ME Grown.**

4575 Dolgo, $20.00

Donald Wyman 20x30' Chance seedling. Arnold Arboretum, 1970. If I could plant only one crab, I would plant a Donald Wyman. Deep pink buds and large 2" single white flowers early in the season. The bloom is so intense, the tree looks like one massive flower. Beautiful rounded wide-spreading medium-sized tree with attractive glossy green foliage. Looks great when it has room to spread out. The shape alone is enough to recommend this cultivar. The bright ⅜" red oval fruit completely covers the tree in clusters and persists until spring when the birds clean it off in time for the next bloom. 2001 winner of the Carey Award for Distinctive Plants for New England. Named in honor of America's great horticulturist. Disease-free, although said to be slightly susceptible to powdery mildew. Z4. **ME Grown.**

4579 Donald Wyman, $20.00

Gracilis 15x25' (No. 329 *M. baccata* seed collected by William Purdon in 1910 in China, introduced in the U.S. by the Arnold Arboretum.) Imagine a tree with layers of branches gently sweeping the grass as well as sky, and mounds of fine luminescent green foliage covered with 10,000 snow drops or lilies of the valley. That's Gracilis in bud. Although the buds are a faint pink, the overall effect is green and muted white. In full bloom the thousands of very small single white blossoms give the tree a lacy ethereal aura. Incredibly beautiful tree. I would call this a semi-weeper, as the branches reach and drape. Unique among crabs. Tiny fruit. Should be staked until it reaches desired height. Z3. **ME Grown.**

4600 Gracilis, $21.00

Liset 15x20' (*M.* x *purpurea* 'Lemoinei' x *M. sieboldii*) The Hague, Netherlands, 1938. Bright crimson-red buds, followed by single red-orange flowers, often considered the brightest and truest red of any crab. Although not well-known, Liset shows up on every "Best Crabs" list. Once you see it, it's hard not to agree. Now that I've got one in my yard, I'm learning to love the glowing reddish copper deep green foliage. I prefer it over any of the other "red-leaf" cultivars, including the new patented imposters. This medium-sized tree has the absolute perfect open spreading horizontal form. Not too open, not too dense, not too large, not too shrimpy. Medium fruit display. Dark red, ¾" round fruit. Virtually scab immune and disease free. Z4. **ME Grown.**

4656 Liset, $20.00

Louisa 15x15' Martha's Vineyard, MA, 1962. Introduced by Polly Hill and named for her daughter. Umbrella-shaped weeping form. Branches arch very slightly then hang loosely to the ground and sway in the breeze almost like a weeping willow. Rose-colored buds open to cheerful true pink flowers, not at all garish. Small cute two-toned long-stemmed fruit, lemon-gold with a small rose blush. Dark green foliage. Father John Fiala in his classic *Flowering Crabapples* calls it "one of the newer weepers that should be far better known and grown. An outstanding crabapple." Disease resistant. Z4. **ME Grown.**

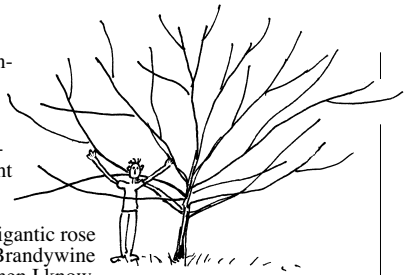
4659 Louisa, $21.00

Crabapple Liqueur

Adapted from a recipe Doc Lisenby sent to me years ago. We've tried this with several different crabapple varieties and found it to be quite satisfying. Red-fleshed varieties impart a nice color.

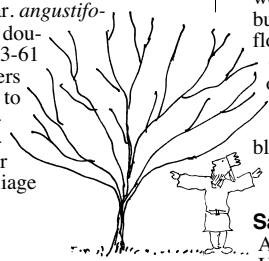
1 quart crabapples cut in half
1 cup granulated sugar
high quality vodka

Fill a clean quart container ¾ full with crabapples. Pour sugar over top. Add vodka. Add remaining crabapples. Put lid on. Let stand on counter or in cupboard. Turn jar upside down then right side up once a day for one week. Let stand one month or even up to a year. Strain through a sieve and discard apples. Strain liqueur through four layers of cheesecloth. Serve in a small glass.



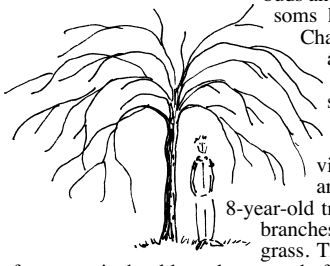
Prairie Rose 15x15' OPS 825, open-pollinated selection of the native prairie crabapple, *M. ioensis*. University of Ill, c. 1959. A spectacle in bloom both for its visuals and its aromatics. Pink buds followed by 2" light pink flowers, each with 25+ petals. Very strong—delightfully odd—intoxicating fragrance. More like a gigantic rose bush than an apple tree. Better than Brandywine if you can believe it. The only specimen I know is on Mark and Paula Fulford's farm in Monroe, ME, where it flowers long after the crabapple season when nothing else is in bloom except Prince Georges (see below #**4736**). Narrow green cut-leaf foliage. No fruit really; Mark calls them "small brown bullets." Z4. **ME Grown.**

4731 Prairie Rose, $20.00



Prince Georges 15x15' (*M. ioensis* x *M. coronaria* var. *angustifolia*) Arnold Arboretum, MA, 1943. Deep pink buds and double light pink rose-type flowers, each with an amazing 53-61 petals. Heavy spectacular annual bloom. Fragrant flowers look—and smell—like roses, an excellent alternative to Brandywine. The last crab to flower each spring and always worth the wait. Small open tree requires practically no pruning and is suited to even the smallest yard or garden. Medium-green narrow palmate "maple-like" foliage reminiscent of Paperbark Maple. No fruit. Virtually disease-free. Z4. **ME Grown.**

4736 Prince Georges, $20.00

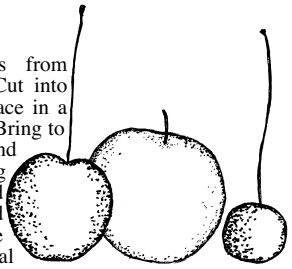


Red Jade 12-15' x 15-20' Chance seedling of *M. floribunda* 'Exzellenz Thiel', Brooklyn Botanic Garden, NY, 1953. Magnificent dense fine-branched weeper. The spring combination of yellow-green foliage, pink buds and single white (actually faint pink) blossoms has a magical, almost surreal quality. Changes day after day as more buds open and the greens and pinks merge and soften to white. Beautifully covered with small 3/8" long-stemmed light red—not pink—fruit, born in clusters up to 5 per bunch and popular with birds. Glossy vibrant green foliage. Using long stakes and judicious pruning, I have trained my 8-year-old tree to begin weeping at 7'. The arching branches rise to 10' and hang to 5' above the grass. The spread is about 12'. Within the next few years it should reach a spread of 20' and drape nearly to the ground. Z4. **ME Grown.**

4754 Red Jade, $21.00

Becky's Crabapple Jelly

from Fedco grower Becky Curtis



Remove stems and blossom ends from approximately 4 lbs of crabapples. Cut into small pieces; do not peel or core. Place in a large saucepan and add 5 cups water. Bring to a boil then reduce the heat, cover and simmer for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Place in a dampened jelly bag or several layers of dampened cheesecloth and hang over a large bowl. Let the juice drip for several hours. Note: Squeezing the jelly bag will cause jelly to be cloudy, so do not squeeze!

Measure 5 cups of juice. (Add water if necessary to make 5 cups.) Combine prepared juice with 7 1/2 cups of sugar in a 6 or 8 qt sauce pan. Bring to a full boil over high heat stirring constantly. Quickly stir in 2 pouches of liquid fruit pectin. (I use Fruit Jell.) Return to a full boil and boil hard for 1 minute stirring constantly. Remove from heat and skim off any foam.

Pour into clean, hot jelly jars, and seal. Tip jars upside down for 5-10 minutes. Then set upright. The jars will seal on their own, or you can process in a hot water bath for 5-10 minutes.

Crabapples are really just apples in disguise. They prefer full sun and deep well-drained soils of 5.5-6.5 pH but they are quite forgiving and will thrive in many locations with a little TLC. They don't like to be drowned or starved for water, and they do need to be protected from borers, mice and deer. See page 6. Planting instructions on page 5.

Pruning Crabapples

Most crabapples require little or no pruning except when a branch is broken or you feel compelled to shape your tree in one way or another. Allow each tree to assume its own unique form. Weeping crabs however do require pruning and training.

Training Your Weeping Crab

First summer: Stake the tree and do not prune at all. Staking keeps the the tree from weeping before reaching the desired height. Tie the tip of the central leader snugly to the stake.

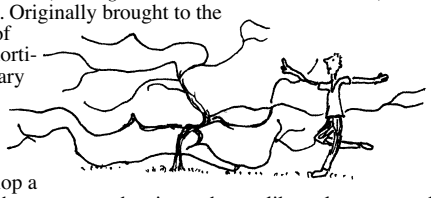
Second summer: Decide the height you want weeping to begin. Continue to train the leader to the stake until it reaches the desired height. Leave some but not all the lower branches.

Later years: Once the leader reaches the desired height, let several branches form and begin to weep. (The nicest weepers I've seen begin weeping at about 6-8' high.) Over 2-3 years, remove all the lower branches. Eventually remove the stake. Continue to remove lower branches as necessary.

Red Swan 10x14' John Fiala introduction, Falconskeape, Medina, OH. The great crabapple breeder considered Red Swan, originally called Red Snow, one of his best introductions. Wide spreading mop-topped disheveled weeping form. Reddish-pink buds and 1 1/2" light pink flowers turning white. Masses of small elliptical bright orange-red persistent fruit will hang until January. Long graceful fine branches. Annual bloomer. Golden yellow fall foliage. Z3. **ME Grown.**

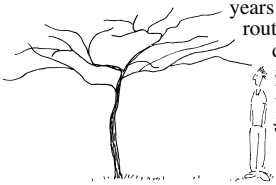
4761 Red Swan, $21.00

Sargent's Crabapple 8x15' (*M. sargentii* var.'Grant's 5 and Dime') Arnold Arboretum, 1892. Originally brought to the U.S. from Japan by one of America's most famous horticulturists, CS Sargent (Mary Potter's father). The smallest crab species, densely and horizontally branched from the base with no tendency to develop a central leader. The branches curve and twist and turn like a large pretzel. Pink buds and profuse pure-white fragrant single flowers seem to bloom forever. Birds are crazy about its mass of very small dark red-purple persistent fruit. Plant this crab by your winter birdwatching window. Often propagated by seed, so many strains exist. This strain, which Phyllis Jantos originally bought nearly half a century ago for $1.50 at Grant's Five and Dime, blooms annually, unusual for a Sargent. Dark green foliage. Disease resistant. Z4. **ME Grown.**



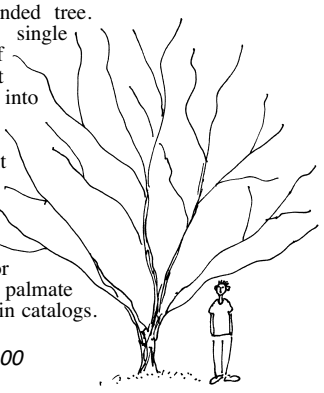
4780 Sargent, $20.00

Semi-Weeping Red 10-12' x 20' Unknown parentage and origin. This is a fantastic tree. It doesn't weep but rather snakes and crawls across the yard, the undulating branches barely rising above a horizontal plane. After ten years, my tree is only six feet tall. I pass it en route to the barn—often a dozen times a day—and every time, I marvel at its shape and color. As beautiful in January as in June. Deep rich glowing electric-red foliage opens just before the plums bloom in mid-May. The half-open dark red buds dangle in clusters below the leaves like the decorative fringe on the rim of a holiday sombrero. The fruit is red, the leaf petioles are red, the whole tree is red. Particularly stunning in bloom when the profusion of bright red flowers intensifies the tree's presence. Roger Luce discovered it many years ago in a nursery near Bath, ME. Unfortunately he lost the tag; he called it Semi-Weeping Red. Very small insignificant fruit. Z4. **ME Grown.**



4797 Semi-weeping Red, $21.00

Winter Gold 25x20' *Malus* x *moerlandsii*. S.G.A. Doorenbos introduction, before 1947. Medium-sized rounded tree. Carmine buds open to white single blossoms followed by clusters of bright lemon-yellow persistent fruit that keeps its color well into winter. Possibly the best of all yellow-fruited crabs. The famous breeder, John Fiala calls it "Magnificent…Outstanding in fruit and blossom." Contrasts beautifully with Donald Wyman and other varieties with persistent red fruit. Excellent for wildlife. Bright green unusual palmate (maple-like) foliage. Rarely seen in catalogs. Z3-4. **ME Grown.**



4839 Winter Gold, $20.00

ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop

Woody Ornamental Shrubs

Although many of these shrubs are multi-use plants, all are cultivated primarily for their flowers, fragrance, foliage or interesting form. They range from diminutive and delicate to large and breathtaking. Some are old standards and some are relatively unknown. We plant them to reduce the amount of lawn we feel compelled to mow, while increasing the beauty and wildlife cover that surrounds us. It's great to see our edible landscape growing every year!

Abelia mosanensis **Fragrant Abelia** 4-6' x same. Delicate showy exceedingly fragrant pink campanulate (bell-shaped tubular) white-centered flowers. Somewhat loose plant with graceful arching stems. Best as a specimen or hedge planting. Blooms in late spring. As fragrant as hyacinth or even Koreanspice bush. Glossy green foliage turns orange-red in fall. Full sun to partial shade. Easy to grow. Prune after flowering. Tolerates most average soils but prefers acid, moist and well-drained. Native to Korea. Z4. **ME Grown.** (12-16" transplants)

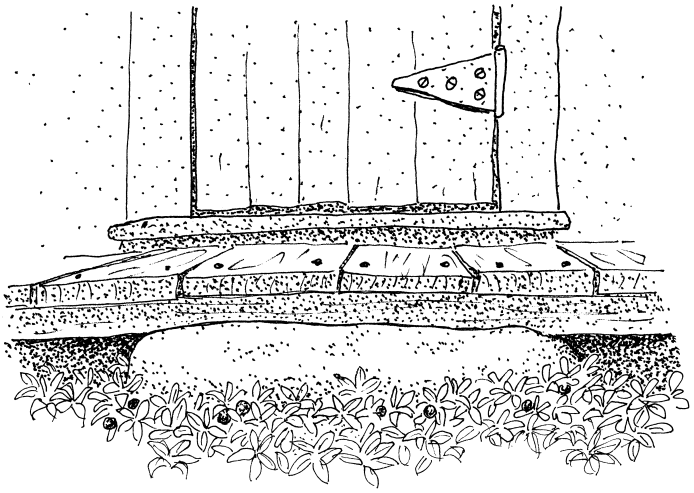
4927 Fragrant Abelia, $11.50

Abeliophyllum distichum **White Forsythia** 4x4' Vigorous multistemmed informal rounded shrub with clusters of white spicy-scented forsythia-like flowers in very early spring. Smooth-edged lime-green foliage. In form somewhere between a shrub and a ground cover: mostly waist high, but decidedly low-growing in places. A good companion for true forsythia and a more reliable bloomer than forsythia in the North. Prefers sunny well-drained locations, but will tolerate most soils. Cut back to 6-12" every 3-4 years. Native to Korea. Z4. (6-18" transplants)

4930 White Forsythia, $9.00

Aesculus parviflora **Bottlebrush Buckeye** 10-12' x 15' Irregular large wide multistemmed suckering shrub with beautiful horse chestnut-like foliage and jaw-dropping midsummer flowers. Forms absolutely magnificent multi-level colonies. In early summer green asparagus-like spears appear above the surface of the colony then open into spectacular 10-18" plume-like feathery panicles. The medium to dark green foliage turns yellow-green in fall and is always disease-free. A major show-stopper in and out of bloom. Excellent as a border plant. Can be grown in the sun but thrives in the shade. Prefers well-drained acid soil. Native to SE North America. Z4. (12-18" transplants)

4936 Bottlebrush Buckeye, $14.00



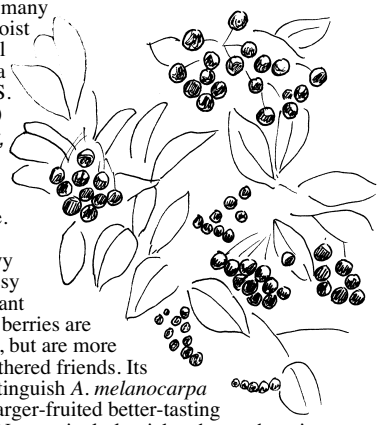
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi **Bearberry** Also called **Kinnikinick**, **Mealberry**, **Hog Cranberry**, **Sandberry**, **Mountain Box**, **Bear's Grape**. Delicate and exceptionally beautiful glossy evergreen spreading groundcover. A magnificent plant for acid soils. One plant can spread to fifteen feet. If you like native plants, you might visit Van Berkum Nursery in Deerfield, NH. They've got a display that features stone steps surrounded by Arctostaphylos. Wow! Small dainty beautiful pinkish-white flowers in spring. Small bright red drupe-type berries color up in late summer and persist into winter. Leaves are powerfully astringent and have many medicinal uses. Prefers poor sandy infertile acid soils, tolerates salt. Use pine needles, peat moss, sulfur, or high acid high nitrogen fertilizer as needed. Can be difficult to transplant. Set plants 1-2' apart. No need ever to prune. Sun or partial shade. Native to North America and Eurasia. Z2. **ME Grown.** (well-rooted transplants)

4945 Bearberry, $8.50

Aristolochia durior **Dutchman's Pipe** 20-30' Also called **Pipe Vine.** A vigorous climber with large 4-10" heart-shaped dark green leaves. Can cover a screened porch or trellis in 2-3 seasons. Grows in sun, thrives in shade. Likes well-drained soil with adequate moisture. Inconspicuous U-shaped tubular flowers in clusters of 1-3 with a white base and mahogany lobes which look like a "Dutchman's Pipe." Native to eastern U.S. Z4. (2-yr #1)

4954 Dutchman's Pipe, $12.00

Aronia arbutifolia **'Brilliantissima' Red Chokeberry** 6-10' x 3-5' In his book *Best of the Hardiest,* John Sabuco calls red chokeberry "one of our finest native landscape shrubs." Upright multistemmed form. Dense clusters of small but showy white flowers with red stamens. Dark green foliage turns a spectacular crimson in the fall. In huge demand as *the* best alternative to the invasive burning bush. Birds love the abundant persistent glossy bright red fruit. Spreads by suckers. Beautiful in masses, plantings and borders. Transplants easily. Adapted to many soils, wet or dry, but prefers moist and well-drained. Sun or partial shade. Can be trained into a small tree. Native eastern U.S. Z4. **ME Grown.** (6-20" transplants)



4961 Red Chokeberry, $9.00

A. melanocarpa **'Viking' Black Chokeberry** 4-6' x same. Compact rounded shrub suckers profusely to form colonies. Showy white blooms in late spring. Glossy green summer foliage turns brilliant wine-red in fall. Attractive black berries are palatable enough for fresh eating, but are more suitable for juice, jelly or our feathered friends. Its black fruit and glossy foliage distinguish *A. melanocarpa* from *A. arbutifolia*. Viking is a larger-fruited better-tasting selection introduced in Sweden. Not particularly picky about where it grows. Adaptable to wet or dry areas, sun or partial shade. Disease and insect free. Native to eastern U.S. Z3. **ME Grown.** (18-36" transplants)

4968 Black Chokeberry, $9.00

Buddleia **Butterfly Bush** Colorful attractive arching shrub with 4-6" panicles of fragrant flowers in midsummer that are guaranteed to attract zillions of butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. In New England treat it as an herbaceous perennial. Cut it to the ground in early spring—or just let it die back—and it will bloom again on new wood come summer. Reblooms throughout the summer if spent flowers are cut. Recommended for shrub or perennial borders. Grey-green foliage. Easy to transplant. Very adaptable but begs for full sun. Can become a nuisance weed in southern states, but that shouldn't ever be a problem up here. The renowned plantsman Michael Dirr is a big fan of Buddleia. Usually considered to be a Zone 5 plant though it may do well in Zone 4. (well-rooted crowns)

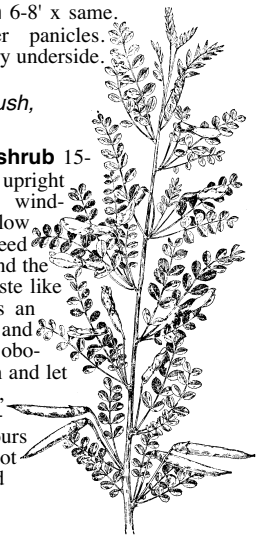
B. **davidii 'Bicolor' Butterfly Bush** 6-8' x same. Selection of Honeycomb. Michael Dirr intro. Each two-toned panicle includes both butterscotch yellow and lavender flowers. Compact habit. **ME Grown.**

4990 Bicolor Butterfly Bush, $11.50

B. d. **'Potter's Purple' Butterfly Bush** 6-8' x same. Large 8" purple lightly fragrant flower panicles. Lance-shaped dark green foliage with silvery underside. **ME Grown.**

5007 Potter's Purple Butterfly Bush, $11.50

Caragana arborescens **Siberian Peashrub** 15-20' Nitrogen-fixing cheerful bright green upright multistemmed oval shrub well-suited to windbreaks, hedges and borders. Delicate yellow flowers in spring are followed by small seed pods that turn a golden yellow. The pods and the small "peas" are edible. Eaten raw, they taste like garden peas, though not as sweet. Makes an acceptable chicken feed. Silvery bark and compound foliage, each with 8-12 small obovate leaflets. Easy to grow; just put them in and let them go. Adaptable to poor soils, drought, salt. Full-sun. Maintenance free. Occasionally rumored to be invasive, although ours have stayed put for twenty years and not spread by seed or root. Native to Siberia and Manchuria. Z2 (6-12" transplants).

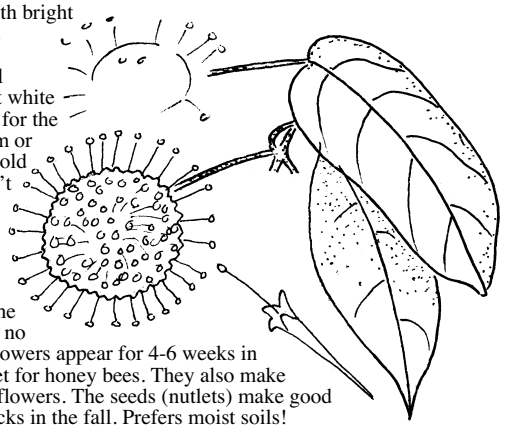


5027 Siberian Peashrub, $9.00

Celastrus scandens **American Bittersweet** or **False Bittersweet** 20' or more. A highly ornamental native vine. The insignificant flower display in spring is followed by beautiful grape-like clusters of small red-orange-yellow berries used for holiday wreaths and other dried flower arrangements. Also beautiful right on the vine. (This is *not* the invasive Asian Bittersweet—*C. orbiculatus*—which you should never grow!) Deep glossy summer foliage turns yellow-green in fall. Very vigorous climbing twining habit, will grow in nearly any soils although it does not like the driest sites. Suitable for covering porches, stone walls, rough hillsides, old cars and unsightly outbuildings. Prune it extensively every year to keep it from taking over. Prefers full sun. Male and female required for fruit. These are unsexed vines. Although some plants may have both male and female flowers, plant two or three plants to ensure fruit. Native eastern North America. Z3. **ME Grown.** (2 yr. medium plants)

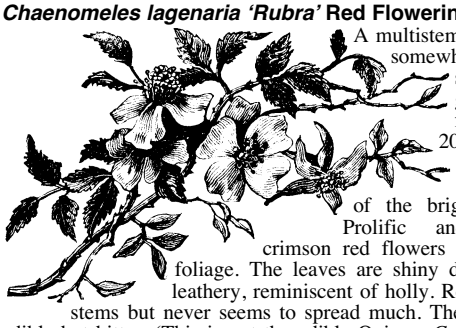
5038 American Bittersweet, $9.00

Cephalanthus occidentalis **Buttonbush** 6-10' x 8' Loose rounded branchy shrub with bright green foliage and masses of highly attractive unusual spherical fragrant white flowers. Suitable for the garden, the stream or pond, or even an old floating log. Don't be surprised if you come across buttonbush growing *in* the river next time you head out in the canoe. But this is no invasive plant. Flowers appear for 4-6 weeks in summer, a magnet for honey bees. They also make interesting dried flowers. The seeds (nutlets) make good fodder for the ducks in the fall. Prefers moist soils! Recommended for naturalizing. Native to eastern U.S., west to New Mexico. Z4. **ME Grown.** (24-36" transplants)



5049 Buttonbush, $10.00

Chaenomeles lagenaria 'Rubra' **Red Flowering Quince** 4-6' x same. A multistemmed wide vase-shaped somewhat arching rounded shrub that I've had growing by the path up from the driveway for 20 years. Looks good all season. The extended blooming period is one of the brighter signs of spring. Prolific and showy 5-petaled crimson red flowers appear just before the foliage. The leaves are shiny dark green and slightly leathery, reminiscent of holly. Regularly sends up more stems but never seems to spread much. The medium-sized fruit is edible but bitter. (This is not the edible Quince, *Cydonia oblonga,* of Owl and Pussycat fame.) However, it is valued for its culinary and medicinal qualities in east Asia. Average acid soil. Sun to partial shade. You might get better fruiting in full sun. Native to east Asia. Said to be Zone 5 but mine has done well in Zone 4. **ME Grown.** (2-3' transplants)



5060 Red Flowering Quince, $12.00

Clethra alnifolia **Clethra 'Ruby Spice', Summersweet** or **Sweet Pepperbush** 4-5' x same. Sport of 'Pink Spires', Broken Arrow Nursery, Hamden, CT, 1992. A *New York Times* article called Clethra "a plant that sounds almost too good to be true." Red buds and beautiful spires of heavenly scented deep pink flowers appear on racemes for 6 weeks in midsummer. Bees and butterflies love it but rabbits and deer do not. Whorls of extremely attractive finely serrated distinctly veined dark green foliage turn deep gold in fall. Dangling racemes of "peppers" persist into the next growing season. Erect rounded-oval habit, often suckering to form dense colonies. Slow growing. Prefers acid moist well-drained soils. A good shrub to border streams and ponds. Will tolerate salty coastal conditions. Full sun to shade. Pest free and easy to grow. Native from Maine to Florida. Z3. **ME Grown.** (12-18" transplants)

5069 Ruby Spice Summersweet, $10.50

ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop

Pruning Directions for Ornamental Shrubs, Trees and Berries

Proper pruning enhances the beauty and usefulness of flowering shrubs and trees. Trim shrubs for large blooms, fine foliage and good form.

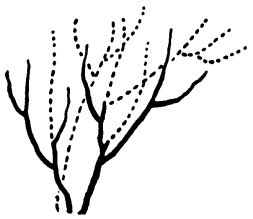
Why Pruning Is Necessary

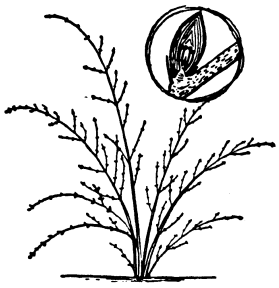
1. Most shrubs need a few of the older canes cut off at the ground line each year to encourage the growth of new canes. This is a natural rejuvenation procedure replacing old canes with new.
2. Pruning produces larger and better blooms as the vitality of the plant goes to the blossoms, rather than to supporting heavy wood growth.
3. Remove poorly shaped longer branches to retain the natural shape of the shrub.
4. Remove broken, dead or diseased branches for health, neatness and vigor.
5. Shrubs with unusual bark coloring should have the older canes removed, as the full natural coloring is displayed best in the new growth.
6. Certain varieties of shrubs sucker from the roots. Remove these suckers unless you want the shrub to spread and form colonies.

Pruning shrubs is primarily thinning out older undesirable canes. Plants such as hydrangeas, altheas, tea roses, tamarix and dogwoods should have all canes pruned back to produce larger flowers or more brightly colored canes.

The form of a tree may be controlled by pruning. If you desire a tall tree with a high crown, prune the lateral branches from the trunk and prevent formation of low crotches. For a low, stocky tree used in screens and windbreaks, cut back the top shoots to force side growth.

Remove oldest wood and center branches (a few each year).





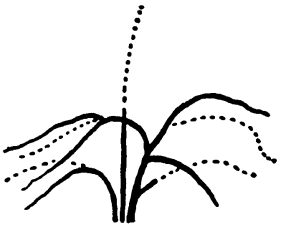
Prune Late-Flowering Shrubs Early

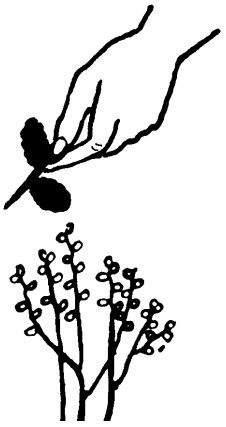
Midsummer-flowering shrubs form flower buds on new wood. For maximum bloom, prune them in early spring before the new wood begins to grow.

Prune Early-Flowering Shrubs Later

Spring-flowering shrubs form flower buds in the summer after they are finished blooming. For maximum bloom the following year, prune them immediately after their bloom is over.

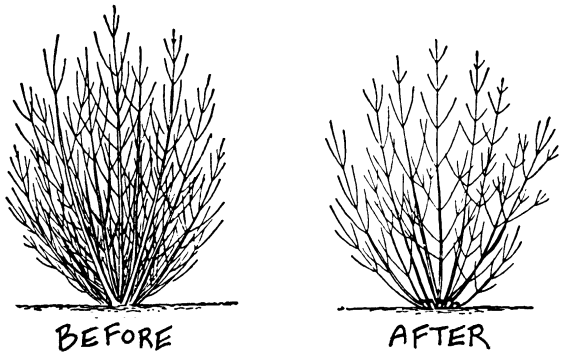
Retain natural arching habit by pruning branches after flowering. Otherwise new growth starts at the tips of flowering branches and the shrub gets top-heavy.





Pinch off the growing tips and remove flowers as soon as faded.

Prune For Healthy Growth

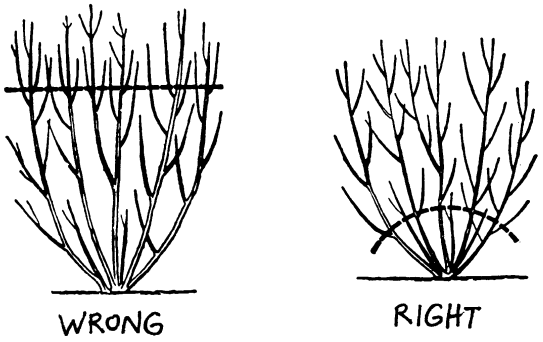


Before

Your shrubs will tell you when they need thinning. Shrubs such as Honeysuckle send up too many canes for optimal growth. Cut off a few of the oldest and least vigorous branches close to the ground. Do not injure the bark on canes to be saved.

After

Note the difference thinning of canes makes. Air and light can now penetrate. Fewer canes promote vigor, health and vitality. Plants will produce more and larger blossoms. Slow growing, less vigorous shrubs seldom need thinning out.



Prune For Symmetry and Appearance

Cutting back shrubs straight across the top is a common error. This encourages top-growth and the lower part of the shrub, with no foliage near the base, becomes woody and unsightly. Growth stays low and bushy when properly pruned.

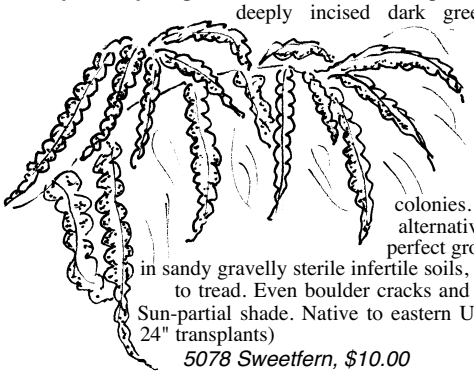
Proper pruning promotes growth at the base of the shrub. Larger flowers on hydrangeas, altheas, hybrid tea roses, tamarix and butterfly bush are obtained by severe pruning. Colorful branches and twigs on dogwoods develop on new stems.

What To Do with Over-Grown Shrubs

Overgrown shrubs with little foliage near the base may be rejuvenated by cutting down each cane at the ground line in early March. All overgrown shrubs should be pruned thusly, even though early blooms may be sacrificed.

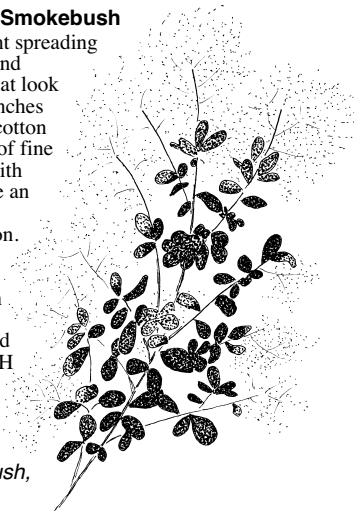
Shrubs cut back for rejuvenation will send forth new shoots in late spring. This growth will be bushy with foliage clear to the ground. Pinch off tops when the desired height is attained. It usually takes two to three years to rejuvenate shrubs and hedges completely.

Comptonia peregrina **Sweetfern** 2-4' x spreading. The narrow 3-6" deeply incised dark green aromatic fern-like foliage is what gives Sweetfern its common name. The deciduous shrub with its uneven, mounded arching habit will sucker almost indefinitely, creating maintenance-free colonies. A magnificent no-frills alternative to the lawn. A nearly perfect ground cover, as it thrives in sandy gravelly sterile infertile soils, where grass won't dare to tread. Even boulder cracks and roadsides! Dry or wet. Sun-partial shade. Native to eastern U.S. Z2. **ME Grown.** (18-24" transplants)

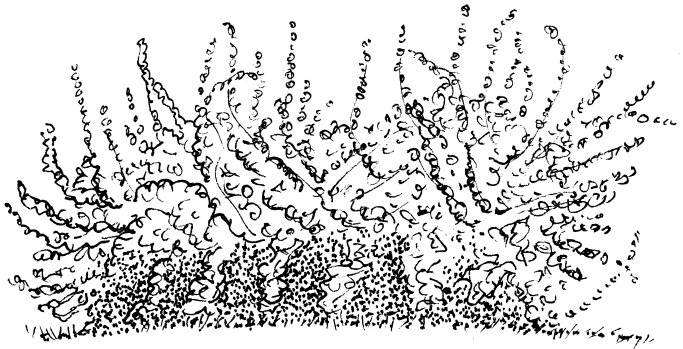


5078 Sweetfern, $10.00

Cotinus coggygria **'Royal Purple' Smokebush** 8-10' x same. Boskoop, Holland. Upright spreading shrub with velvety dark purple foliage and amazing purplish-pink inflorescences that look like large smoke puffs on top of the branches throughout summer. Each one of these cotton candy-like poofs is composed of a web of fine stems, the smallest of which are lined with tiny hairs that reflect the light and create an ethereal effect. Quite remarkable. For maximum glow, plant in a sunny location. Red-burgundy fall color. Often considered a Zone 5 plant, but reliably grows back and flowers each summer in Zone 4. Cut to the ground each fall for more vigorous and more brightly colored growth. Adaptable to a wide range of pH and soils although it prefers it well-drained. Disease free. Native southern Europe to China. Z4. **ME Grown.** (6-24" beefy plants)



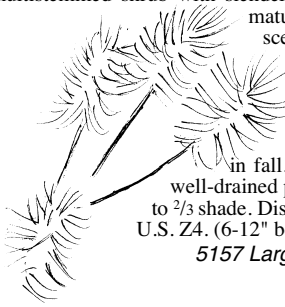
5116 Royal Purple Smokebush, $9.50



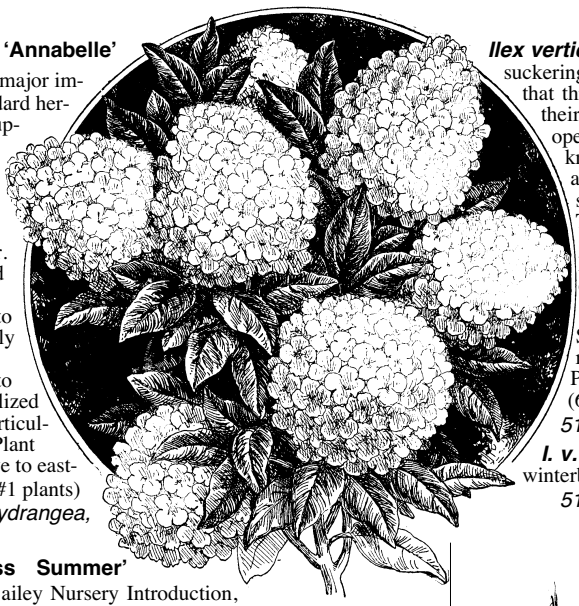
Forsythia ovata **x** ***F. europaea*** **Meadowlark Forsythia** 6-9' x same. ND and SD Ag Exp Stations and Arnold Arboretum introduction. Welcoming everyone to spring in Maine, from mile one on the Maine Turnpike to the potato prairies of The County, Forsythia means spring. Meadowlark is one of the hardiest forsythias, with bud hardiness to -35°. Don't be fooled by the cheap imitations at the Big Box. If you want blooms above the snow-line, shop at Fedco! Semi-arching habit and showy bright yellow blooms. Soil adaptable. Best in full sun. Periodically prune the whole shrub to the ground or just remove some of the oldest stems. Z3. **ME Grown.** (6-24" beefy plants)

5138 Meadowlark Forsythia, $9.25

Fothergilla major **Large Fothergilla** 6-10' x same. Magnificent rounded multistemmed shrub with slender crooked branches becoming dense with maturity. Amazing small creamy-white honey-scented bottlebrush-shaped flowers (inflorescences) with long showy stamens. Blooms in spring, usually around lilac time. Attractive dark green to blue-green leathery leaves turn brilliant yellow, orange and scarlet, often on the same leaf, in fall. A great shrub year-round. Prefers moist well-drained peaty acidic soil but is very adaptable. Sun to $^2/_3$ shade. Disease- and pest-free. Native to southeastern U.S. Z4. (6-12" beefy plants)



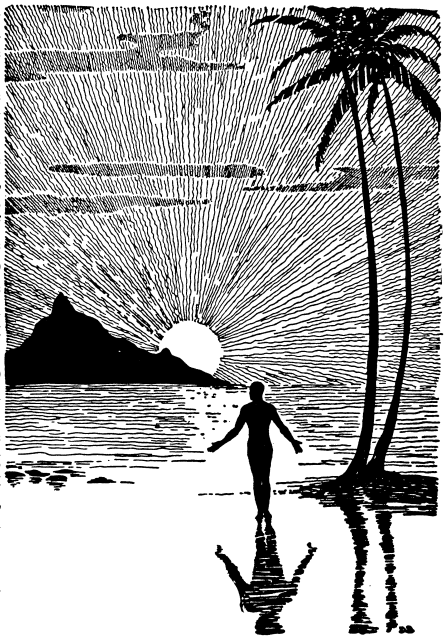
5157 Large Fothergilla, $12.00



***Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle' Hydrangea** 3-5' x same. A major improvement over the old standard herbaceous hydrangea. A very upright yet rounded shrub, the earliest and most erect of the hydrangeas. Large clusters (up to 1') of showy white to faint-yellow flowers bloom from late June till September. Big 5-6" almost heart-shaped foliage. Grows fast, suckers freely, thrives in shade. Cut to the ground and fertilize lightly in late winter for stunning bloom next summer. Suited to perennial borders and naturalized gardens. A Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Gold Medal Plant Award winner. Species native to eastern U.S. Z3. **ME Grown.** (1yr #1 plants)

5168 Annabelle Hydrangea, $13.00

***H. macrophylla* 'Endless Summer' Hydrangea** 3-5' x same. Bailey Nursery Introduction, St. Paul, MN, 2004. This is the blue flowering hydrangea that is causing all the hoop-la in the gardening world. With good reason. Most Bigleaf Hydrangeas (*H. macrophylla*) bloom only on old wood. After a typical Maine winter you get dead flower buds and no flowers. 'Endless Summer' blooms on old and new wood. Even if the plant dies to the ground, you'll get large showy 8" mop-head blooms that same summer. Please note, however, that some gardeners have been disappointed with this plant. To ensure blue flowers, you absolutely must have acidic soil. Otherwise they'll be pink. For those who need to acidify their soil, try following Henry Homeyer's advice from the University of New Hampshire: "Dig a hole twice as wide and twice as deep as the rootball. Discard half the soil, and mix the remaining soil with an equal quantity of moist peat moss. Peat moss is naturally acidic, and will also help to prevent wilting of the leaves on hot days.…[Do not apply any] fertilizer, particularly soluble chemical fertilizers.…Adding too much nitrogen…means that your plant will grow rapidly, and have nice dark green leaves, but produce few flowers." Sun or partial shade. Prefers deep well-drained acid soils with lots of organic matter. Native to Japan. Z4. (medium plants)



5172 Endless Summer Hydrangea, $19.00

***H. paniculata* 'Limelight' Hydrangea** 6-8' x same. Pieter Zwijnenburg, Jr. introduction. Booskoop, The Netherlands. Pennsylvania Hort Society Gold Medal 2006. Large (6-12") upright light lime green flowers in midsummer that turn deep pink in fall. The contrasting colors are delightful. We gave grower Jen Ries Limelight to trial, and she fell in love. Now she's become our supplier. Train to a shrub or small tree. Blooms on new wood. Prune late fall or early spring. Remove spent flower heads. Dark green foliage. Full sun-partial shade. Soil adaptable but prefers good loam with moderate moisture. Species native to eastern Asia. Z3-4. **ME Grown.** (6-20" transplants)

5182 Limelight Hydrangea, $13.00

***H. p.* Pee Gee Hydrangea** 8 x 10-15' Large upright woody shrub with arching branches and very showy large conical double white flower-clusters that bloom July–August, turning pink-bronze in autumn. Small serrated yellow-green leaves illuminated with a fine yellow edge. Prefers good loamy moist well-drained soil in sun or partial shade. Difficult to kill; urban tolerant. Species native to North and South America and eastern Asia. Z4. **ME Grown.** (24-36" transplants)

5186 Pee Gee Hydrangea, $13.00

***Ilex verticillata* Winterberry** A staple of the Maine landscape. Deciduous suckering holly with clusters of upright stems. One of the few berry plants that thrives even in dry shady spots. Lustrous deep green leaves retain their color long after they're cut for decoration. Richly foliated, but open enough to display its interesting branching structure. Best known for its profusions of bright red 3/8" berries which stand out after the leaves have fallen and keep their color all winter, looking spectacular against the snow. Excellent fall wildlife forage plant. Tolerates dry conditions but prefers moist or wet acidic soil, even standing water. Sun or partial shade. No serious pests or diseases. Male and female plants required for fruit. Plant males within 30' of females. Native from midwestern to eastern U.S. Z4.

***I. v.* 'Red Sprite'** 3-5' x 4-8' Female plant. USDA introduction. Smaller plant than the straight species with an attractive low loose rounded form. Winner of the 1998 Cary Award for Distinctive Plants for New England. 'Jim Dandy' male required for fruit. (6-12" beefy plants)

5189 Red Sprite Winterberry, $10.00

***I. v.* 'Jim Dandy'** 3-6' x 4-5' Male selection to pollinate 'Red Sprite' winterberry. One will pollinate several females. (6-12" beefy plants)

5193 Male Jim Dandy Winterberry, $10.00

***I. v.* 'Winter Red'** 9x8' Female plant. Larger than 'Red Sprite'. Darker green foliage. Winner of the 1995 Styer Award. 'Southern Gentleman' male required for fruit. (6-12" beefy plants)

5197 Winter Red Winterberry, $10.00

***I. v.* 'Southern Gentleman'** 6x6' Male selection to pollinate 'Winter Red' winterberry. Don't be deceived by the name—it's hardy. One will pollinate several females. (12-18" beefy plants)

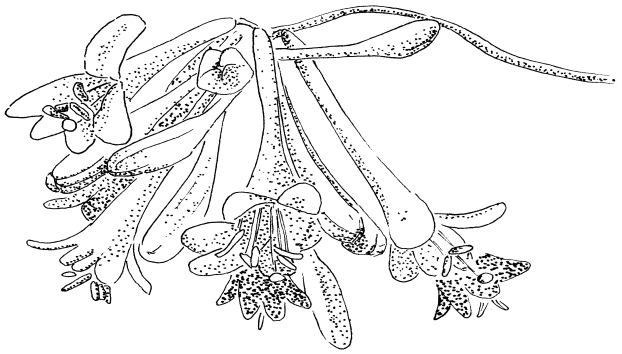
5201 Southern Gentleman Winterberry, $10.00

***Itea virginica* 'Henry's Garnet' Virginia Sweetspire** 3-5' x 5-6'. Swarthmore College, PA. Spreading shrub with an erect clustered branching habit. Fragrant white flowers on upright racemes up to 6" long in early summer. Bright green foliage, brilliant reddish-purple fall color. Will form colonies. Henry's Garnet has both superior flowers and fall color. Winner of the prestigious Styer award and the 1999 Michigan Growers' Choice award. Recommended for moist or wet areas although quite drought tolerant as well. Sun or shade, pH adaptable. Species native to eastern U.S. Z5 or maybe 4. (6-12" beefy plants)

5204 Henry's Garnet Sweetspire, $10.00

***Kolkwitzia amabilis* Beautybush** 6-10' x 6-8' Fast-growing multi-stemmed shrub that likes to have plenty of room for its old-fashioned slightly unkempt arching vase-shaped form. Blooms in June, just before the Mockorange and after the lilacs. Completely covered with small fragrant medium-pink 5-petaled tubular flowers, each throat etched with a web of yellow-orange veins and dots. The blossoms appear on the side shoots of every stem, up to 20 per cluster. There are literally thousands on a mature specimen. While the overall appearance is pink, the orange throat enriches the color. A real knock-out. Matte bluish-green slightly rugose foliage. Brown and grey exfoliating bark. Yellow and red fall color. Can also be pruned to a small 3-7 trunk tree. Flowers can be forced indoors in spring. Prune after flowering, removing the oldest branches back to the ground. Excellent as a specimen or background shrub for short statured plantings. Easy to grow in any type of soil. Prefers full sun. No serious pests or disease. Native to Central China. Z4. **ME Grown.** (18-24" transplants)

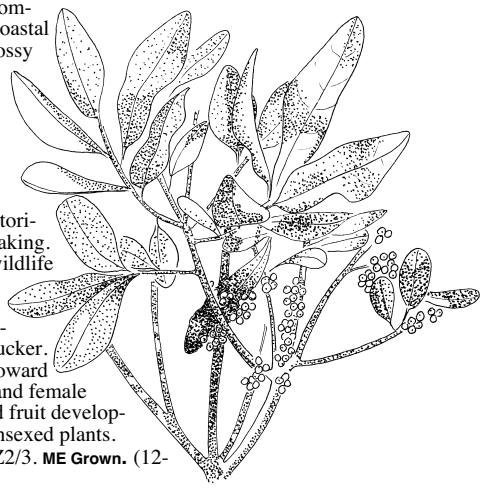
5210 Beautybush, $10.00



***Lonicera* x *brownii* Dropmore Scarlet Honeysuckle** 10-20' (*L. sempervirens* x *L. hirsuta*) Tall climbing honeysuckle developed by FL Skinner in Manitoba. Jazzy whimsical clusters of 1½" scarlet-orange tubular flowers bloom profusely and tirelessly from early summer into late fall. Attracts hummingbirds and butterflies. Striking blue-green foliage on red stems. Great for fence or arbor. Easy to grow; generally free of insects and diseases. Flowers the first year. Considered the hardiest vining honeysuckle. Z3. (2-yr medium plants)

5222 Dropmore Scarlet Honeysuckle, $10.00

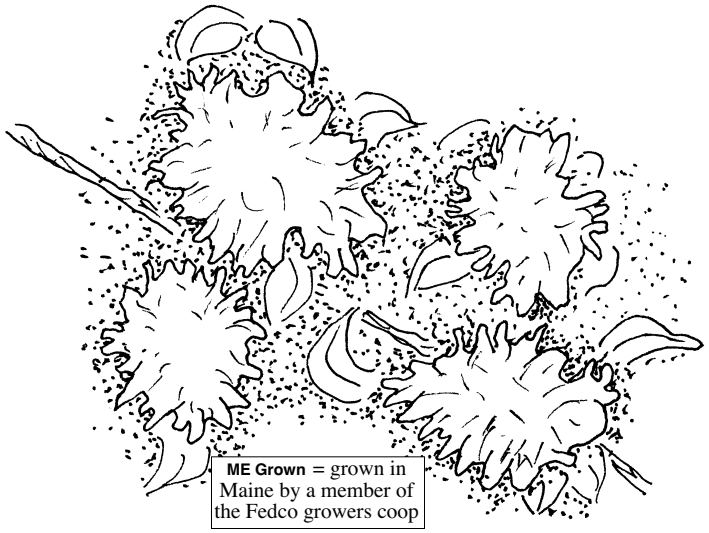
***Myrica pensylvanica* Bayberry** 5-9' Rounded deciduous semi-evergreen very salt-tolerant shrub thrives in full sun to partial shade, sandy poor soils to heavy clay soils. A common sight on Maine's coastal islands. Rubbing the glossy deep green leaves between your fingers produces one of the most delicious smells in the world. Small greyish-blue waxy berries produced on female plants are highly aromatic, historically used for candle making. Plants feed numerous wildlife species and are especially craved by swallows. Excellent in masses or hedges, tends to sucker. Fixes nitrogen. Tends toward being dioecious. Male and female plants required for good fruit development. We're offering unsexed plants. Native to eastern U.S. Z2/3. **ME Grown.** (12-24" transplants)



5240 Bayberry, $12.00

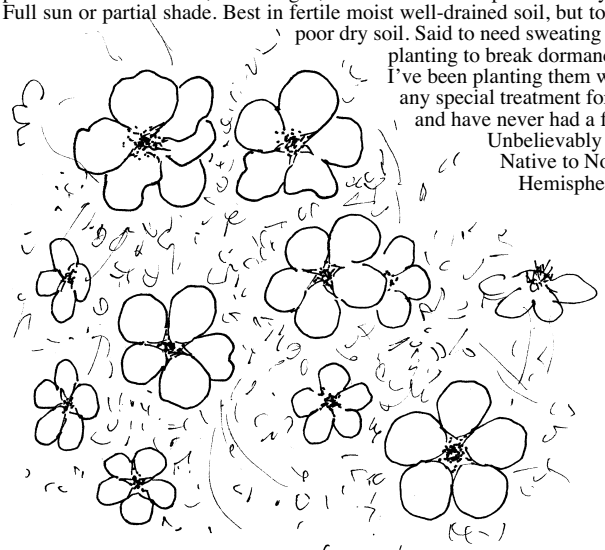
***Philadelphus virginalis* Minnesota Snowflake Mockorange** 6-8' x 5-6' GD Bush introduction. Medium-sized coarse loosely upright arching vase-shaped shrub with sweet-scented large double white flowers each 2" across. Especially showy multi-petaled flowers are a knockout. Blooms for up to four weeks in late spring, after lilacs fade. The contrast of the flowers and the dark blue-green foliage is lovely. Prefers moist rich well-drained soils, but will grow well in most conditions. Full sun to partial shade. Prune after flowering. Native to western Asia. Said to be hardy to -30° though generally rated as Z4. **ME Grown.** (2-3' transplants)

5269 Minnesota Snowflake Mockorange, $10.00



ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop

***Potentilla fruticosa* Potentilla** Also called **Shrubby Cinquefoil** or **Widdy**. A compact rounded to broadly rounded bushy shrub with showy five-petaled rose-like flowers. Flowers all summer long, beginning the first year. Very small attractive grey-green compound leaves. Excellent landscape plant for shrub borders, low hedges, rock walls and steps. Loved by bees. Full sun or partial shade. Best in fertile moist well-drained soil, but tolerates poor dry soil. Said to need sweating before planting to break dormancy, but I've been planting them without any special treatment for years and have never had a failure. Unbelievably hardy. Native to Northern Hemisphere. Z2.



***P. f.* 'Mango Tango' Potentilla** 2x2' University of Manitoba introduction, Canada. Unusual tri-color orange, red and yellow blooms. The overall effect is a soft orange. Bright green foliage. Colors look brightest in cooler weather and full sun. (6-12" beefy plants)

5306 Mango Tango Potentilla, $10.00

***P. f.* 'Pink Beauty'** 3x3' A recent University of Manitoba introduction. Soft-pink petals edged in a fainter pink. Although a frequent complaint about pink cultivars is that the color fades, in our experience Pink Beauty holds its color extremely well. Good fertility helps reduce fading. **ME Grown.** (12-18" transplants)

5312 Pink Beauty Potentilla, $10.00

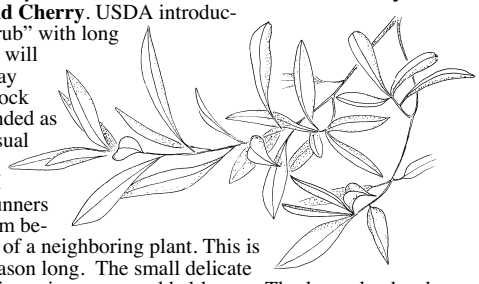
***P. f.* 'Primrose Beauty'** 3x3' Faint yellow flowers with a slightly deeper yellow center and yellow stamens. From a distance the color appears creamy. This is a good choice if white is too white and the yellow cultivars are too garish. In groupings, it compliments white potentillas quite nicely and helps tame the "gold" cultivars. (9-18" beefy plants)

5314 Primrose Beauty Potentilla, $10.00

***P. f.* 'Snowbird'** 2½-3' x 2-3' White flowers. Upright compact form and glossy green foliage. Unlike most Potentillas, most of Snowbird's blossoms will be doubles after the first few years. (6-12" beefy plants)

5317 Snowbird Potentilla, $10.00

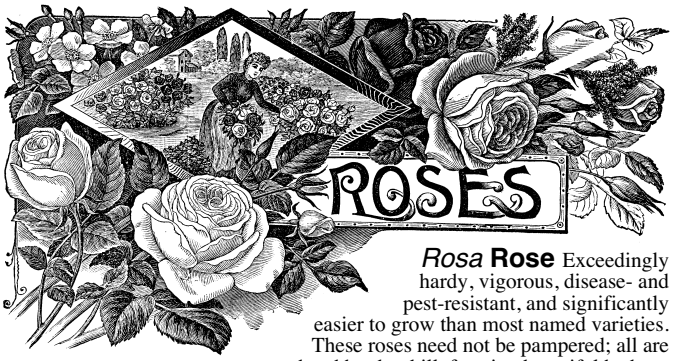
***Prunus pumila* var. *depressa* 'Catskill' Ground Sand Cherry** 2'x15' Also called **Dwarf Sand Cherry**. USDA introduction. Low growing "shrub" with long undulating runners that will creep and wind their way across your garden or rock wall. Highly recommended as a ground cover with visual interest and edible landscaping potential. I periodically train the runners on mine by tucking them behind a rock or the stem of a neighboring plant. This is a delightful plant all season long. The small delicate pinkish-white flowers in spring are an added bonus. The long slender deep green "willow-like" foliage stands erect and turns spectacular orange-red in fall. Edible fruits. Full sun to light shade. Tolerates poor soils. Native to eastern U.S. Z3. **ME Grown.** (well-rooted plants)



5320 Ground Sand Cherry, $10.50

***Rhus typhina* Staghorn Sumac** 15' x same. Fast-growing suckering spreading irregular exotic tropical-looking shrub or small tree with large frond-like compound foliage and amazing red fruit "plumes" that look like the kind of thing the marching band has on the front of their hats. Towards the end of July the plumes—stiff upright hairy panicles—begin to redden up. You can make "cranberry juice" from those plumes. Birds will feast on the fruit. Spectacular scarlet fall leaf color. Thrives in dry infertile soils. You'll most often find it growing along roadsides, railroad tracks or woodland edges. Tolerates soil compaction and everything else. Before you know it, you'll have a colony. This is a wonderful plant if you have room to let it do its thing. Sun to partial shade. Transplants easily. Native to eastern North America. Z2. **ME Grown.** (18-30" transplants)

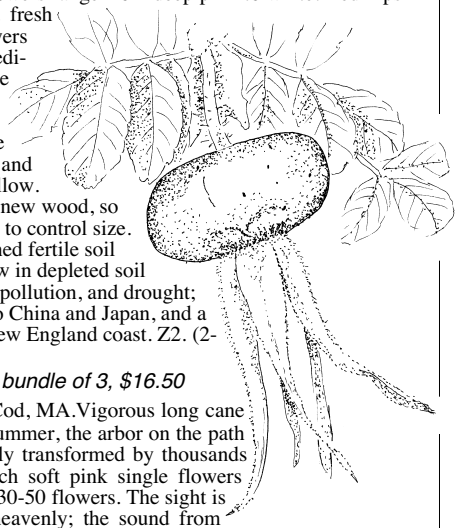
5345 Staghorn Sumac, $10.00



***Rosa* Rose** Exceedingly hardy, vigorous, disease- and pest-resistant, and significantly easier to grow than most named varieties. These roses need not be pampered; all are rugged and hard to kill, forming beautiful hedges. Recommended as a solution for those who want roses but are tired of struggling with tender hybrid tea roses, or who associate roses with pests, poisons, disease and winterkill.

We focus on hardiness and fragrance in our rose selections. If the description says very fragrant, it is! Each year we offer a different selection of the best varieties available. If your favorite is not on the list this year, we may be offering it in 2008. We cut our plants back to about 6" to encourage optimal growth and bloom. (stocky well-rooted plants)

R. rugosa 4-6' x same. Also called **Japanese Rose** or **Beach Rose**. Vigorous spreading shrub. Flowers range from deep pink to white. Red hips up to 1" for jams, teas, and fresh eating right off the bush. Flowers used in traditional Chinese medicine to regulate *qi* and promote blood circulation. The dark green wrinkled "rugose" leaves form a backdrop for the highly fragrant single flowers and the large edible hips which follow. Blooms form on both old and new wood, so pruning is unnecessary except to control size. Prefers full sun and well-drained fertile soil with a pH of 6-7, but will grow in depleted soil and even sand. Tolerates salt, pollution, and drought; practically care-free. Native to China and Japan, and a common sight all along the New England coast. Z2. (2-yr transplants 2-3')



5350 Rosa rugosa, bundle of 3, $16.50

***R.* 'Bombu's Rose'** Cape Cod, MA.Vigorous long cane rambler. On the first day of summer, the arbor on the path from our driveway is suddenly transformed by thousands of incredibly fragrant one-inch soft pink single flowers borne in fist-sized clusters of 30-50 flowers. The sight is delightful; the fragrance is heavenly; the sound from the mass of bees is remarkable. Planted in 1982 from one tiny root sucker brought back from Cape Cod, the rose is now about 25' across and mounded up over the 8' arbor. No sun penetrates below. I have attempted to determine the true name, with no luck. The original plant is long gone. For now I call it Bombu's Rose after my grandmother who tended the gardens surrounding her old cape. It is likely a multiflora type rambler. In southern districts it might spread from seed and could be a problem though it left no seedlings at Bombu's. Here at my place, it has spawned only a half dozen seedlings in 25 years. Blooms for about two weeks. Some dieback but rebounds every year. Z4. **ME Grown.**

5372 Bombu's Rose, $10.75

***R.* 'Marie Bugnet'** 3x3' [(Therese Bugnet x seedling) x F.J. Grootendorst]. Bugnet, Canada, 1963. Lloyd Brace of the old Roseraie at Bayfields called Marie Bugnet "the best small white rose." The pure-white 3" double blooms are exceptionally fragrant. Plant it where you can smell it! Begins blooming early and continues until fall. Does not form hips. New foliage is light green and matures to olive. The red stems are particularly attractive in winter. Disease resistant. Z3.

5479 Marie Bugnet Rose, $10.75

***R.* 'Morden Blush'** 3x3' [(Prairie Princess x Morden Amorette) x (Prairie Princess x (White Bouquet x (*R. arkansana* x Assiniboine)))] Parkland Series, Manitoba, Canada, 1988. Pointed ivory buds followed by a profusion of very double sweetly fragrant small creamy flowers blushed pink in the center. Blooms from early summer until frost. Low-growing form with glossy green foliage. Red-orange hips. Although Morden Blush looks something like a hybrid tea, don't be fooled; it's hardy to Zone 3 or even Z2.

5488 Morden Blush Rose, $10.75

ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop

Roses prefer full sun (at least 4-6 hrs per day) and a pH of 6.0-7.0. Space them 4-6' apart. They will do well in most well-drained soils with a good amount of organic matter. In locations with poor drainage, add gravel at the bottom of the planting hole, or build in drainage. Pick a site with good air drainage, but avoid sites with cold northwest winds. Avoid competition with tree roots.

Plant roses as early as soil can be worked. Most roses' roots don't spread beyond the original hole, so dig a bushel-sized hole, as deep as 2' or more. We recommend a bale of rotten hay in the bottom of the planting hole. Mix soil with liberal quantities of well-rotted manure and compost. Add a coffee-can full of rock phosphate or bone meal.

Soak in water overnight or up to three days before planting. Prior to planting, prune roses back to 3 canes, 4-5" tall. Plant them 1" below the level they were in the nursery. Add water as you fill in the hole to puddle it in. Mound soil around branches to prevent them from drying out, and to encourage buds to sprout. As the buds open, pull back the soil to the correct level.

Shrub roses and climbers will require little pruning in later years. Remove dead or broken branches, and periodically cut out the oldest wood. Keep them well mulched to retain moisture and reduce weeds. Add 2 shovelfuls of composted manure to each crown late in the fall. For more information see *Growing Old Fashioned Hardy Roses Organically* by Suzanne Verrier in the book section of our Seed Catalog.

***R.* 'Morden Sunrise'** 3x3' Sunsprite x unnamed seedling. Parkland Series, Manitoba, Canada, 2000. Yellow-orange buds open to semi-double multi-colored flowers, each one a deep rich yellow in the center fading into orange and then into pink at the blossom edge. This is a rose on fire. If you like yellow and orange, you will not be disappointed. The colors are strong and vibrant. As the fragrant flowers mature they fade to a creamy yellow white. The low-growing shrub blooms all summer on canes that turn reddish brown in winter. Showed significant dieback this past winter but then recovered nicely and bloomed profusely. Resistant to blackspot. Z3-4.

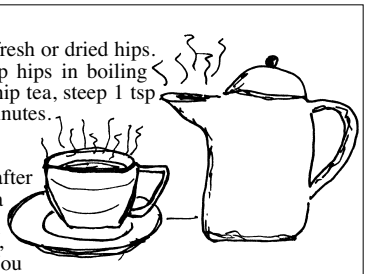
5493 Morden Sunrise Rose, $10.75

***R.* 'Rambling Red'** 6-10' (Seedling of Henry Kelsey) Climbing rose. Recurrent blooming medium true-red multipetaled flowers. Blooms in late spring and keeps on blooming though summer. What a delightful surprise this rose has turned out to be. We put it on trial a couple of years ago and are already thrilled with what we've discovered. We tied it loosely to a fence near the driveway where it's wrapped itself up and about. Very hardy. Z3.

5502 Rambling Red Rose, $10.75

Rose Hip Tea

You can make rose hip tea from fresh or dried hips. For fresh hip tea, steep 1-2 Tbsp hips in boiling water for ten minutes. For dried hip tea, steep 1 tsp hips in boiling water for ten minutes. Add sweetener to taste.



Harvest rose hips in September after frost. Dry on screens or in a commercial drier. Remove seeds when hips are partially dry, then finish drying thoroughly. You can store dried hips for months in jars in a cool dark cupboard.

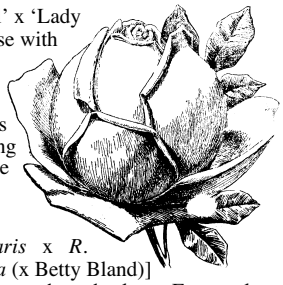
***R. glauca* Redleaf Rose** 5-7' Feathery upright arching spreading shrub with purple stems and soft reddish-purple coppery foliage. Exceptionally beautiful throughout the season. We planted this rose by the front door for good reason. I never fail to admire its ever-present foliage and I don't want to miss the bloom. Although the flowers can get lost in the foliage from a distance, they are truly wonderful: single five-petaled with brilliant yellow stamens and two-tone petals of white and bright pink. Quite amazing. Abundant bright red-purple hips. Will spread by suckers over time. Disease resistant. Native to central Europe. Z2.

5505 Redleaf Rose, $10.75

***R.* 'Seven Sisters'** 10-15' x 4' *R. multiflora* 'Platyphylla' Japan, 1817. Clusters of perfectly shaped and tightly petaled fragrant 1-2" double flowers, like frilly buttons, bloom simultaneously in seven different shades of pink, red and even crimson. It's like having an entire rose garden on one bush. Blooms most of July up here. A strong climber that can also be used as a groundcover or a rambler. I think of it as a large shrub rose. Give it space, more than 4 feet if you've got it. Large dark green foliage. Covered with tiny red hips in fall. Died back last winter but came back with ease and gave us masses of flowers once again. Z4. **ME Grown.**

5519 Seven Sisters Rose, $10.75

***R.* 'The Fairy'** 2-2½' x same. ('Paul Crampel' x 'Lady Gay') JA Bentall, England 1932. Polyantha rose with small frilly double pastel pink flowers that bloom all summer in large pendulous clusters. There are so many petals packed into each bloom you'd never know there are any stamens hiding in there. Low growing graceful spreading plant. Tolerates poor soils and neglect. My type of rose! Disease-free foliage. Z4. **ME Grown.**



5533 The Fairy Rose, $10.75

***R.* 'Therese Bugnet'** 6x4' [(*R. acicularis* x *R. kamtchatica*) x (*R. amblyotis* x *R. rugosa plena* (x Betty Bland)] Alberta, Canada, 1950. Vigorous upright vase-shaped plant. Extremely fragrant large 3-4" double, soft lilac-pink flowers have an informal "old rose" look. Blooms in late spring and fall with some repeats all summer. Long narrow grey-green foliage turns red in fall. Red canes look particularly beautiful in the snow. Disease resistant. Fast growing and one of the hardiest of the rugosa types.Came through this past winter with no dieback at all. Z3. **ME Grown.**

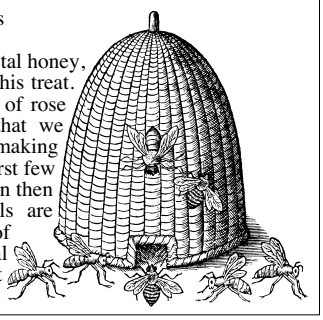
5534 Therese Bugnet Rose, $10.75

***R. virginiana* Virginia Rose** 3-4' Rugged hardy small to medium-sized spreading shrub with dense erect red canes and single pink blossoms in June. Glossy dark green foliage turns red-orange in fall and bright red ½" hips persist into winter or can be harvested for tea. Excellent as a barrier or hedge. Thrives in sandy soils and tolerates salt. An excellent native alternative for those reluctant to use *Rosa rugosa* in their plantings. Eastern U.S. Z3. **ME Grown.**

5552 Virginia Rose, $10.75

Rose Petal Honey
from Fedco customer Deborah Wiggs

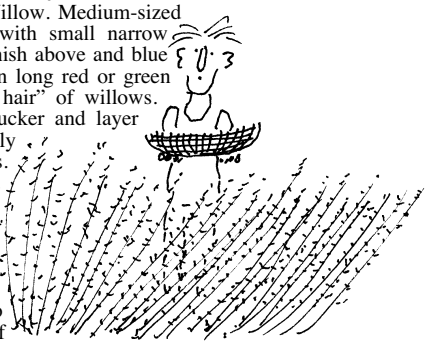
There is no official recipe for rose petal honey, but I'll give you what I do to make this treat. Very simple! Fill a jar halfway full of rose petals; I like to use *Rosa rugosa* that we grow here. Fill the jar with honey making sure to cover all the petals. For the first few days keep turning the jar upside down then right side up to be sure all petals are completely covered. That's it. One of my friends loves to put rose petal honey on top of halved grapefruit and bake it for a few minutes.



***Salix gracilistyla* 'Melanostachys' Black Pussy Willow** 6-10' x same. A very attractive fast-growing plant for wetland areas. Deep purple-black male catkins in early spring, suitable for the dining table or kitchen windowsill. The rather short foliage emerges orange and then turns a deep green. Stems assume a rich purple-black color in winter. Very nice dark colors all year. Winner of Royal Horticulture Society Award of Garden Merit. Prune in summer or fall. Full sun, prefers moist soils, pH adaptable but does not like shallow chalky soils. Native to eastern Asia. Z4. **ME Grown.** (2-4' transplants)

5568 Black Pussy Willow, $9.25

***S. purpurea 'gracilis' (nana)* Blue Leaf Arctic Willow** 3-5' x 3-6' Selection of Purpleosier Willow. Medium-sized spreading rounded shrub with small narrow blue foliage (actually greenish above and blue beneath) and delicately thin long red or green stems. This is the "angel hair" of willows. The graceful thin stems sucker and layer and form a thick and highly attractive ornamental mass. Long used for fine textured basket making. Excellent bank or hedge plant, especially in wet areas, but also quite suitable for a highly visible location. If it gets overgrown, cut it to the ground every couple of years and it'll come right back. Native from Europe to North Africa to Japan. Z3. **ME Grown.** (15-24" transplants)



5577 Blue Leaf Arctic Willow, $9.00

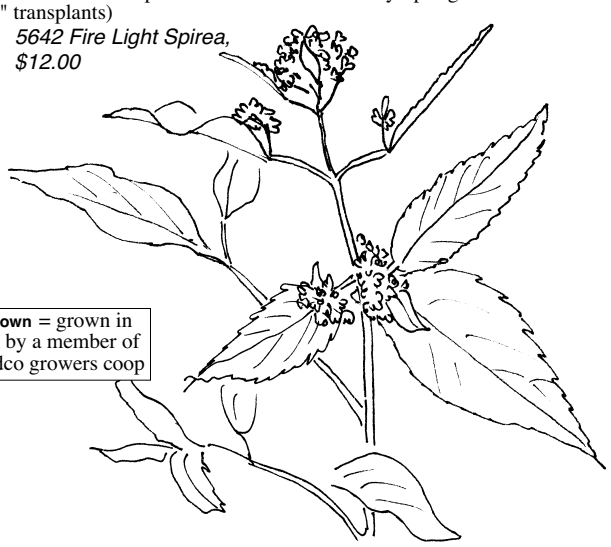
***Sambucus nigra* 'Eva' Black Lace Elderberry** 8-10' x same. Ken Tobutt introduction, East Malling Research Institute, Kent, England. Highly ornamental long-branched multistemmed rounded shrub with deeply incised lacy Japanese Maple-like black foliage with rich green undertones. Also beautiful in bloom. Pink buds open to 6" white flowers in late spring. Black fall fruit. Not attractive to deer. Moist soils. Will thrive in the same conditions as our native Elderberry. Full sun to partial shade. Native to Europe, northern Africa and western Asia. Z4/5. **ME Grown.** (12-18" transplants)

5592 Black Lace Elderberry, $13.50

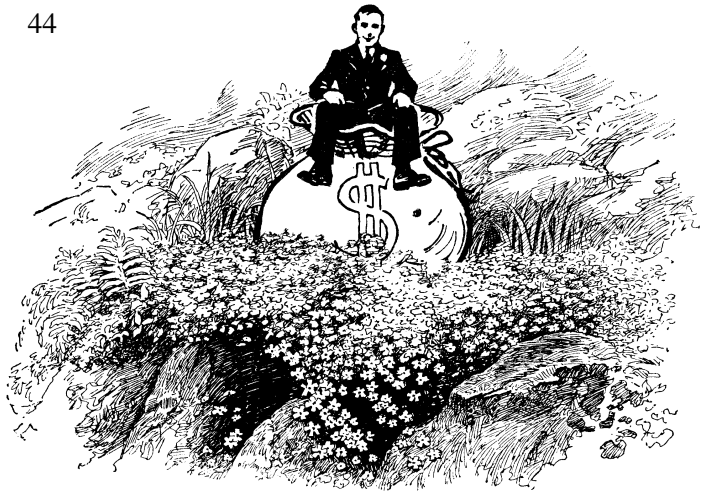
***Spiræa* Spirea** includes nearly 100 species of deciduous shrubs native to the northern hemisphere, all with profuse and often very showy small white, pink or red flowers, arranged in flat or round clusters or in pyramidal spikes. Varying in form and size, spireas are very adaptable, thriving in most soils with a full to partially sunny exposure and average moisture. Two well-known natives are Meadowsweet (*S. latifolia*) and Hardhack (*S. tomentosa*). Spring-flowering species bloom on last season's growth. Prune some of the growth in early spring to increase the flower cluster size. The summer-flowering species bloom on this year's growth and usually require no pruning at all. Each year we offer a few of our favorite spireas, varying our selection annually.

***S. japonica* 'Fire Light' Spirea** 2-4' x same. Recent introduction from England. Low mounded bushy shrub particularly attractive for its foliage that opens orange then turns a fiery red and green during summer and finally a brilliant blazing red in fall. Deep pink flowers from late spring into summer. Compact habit. Similar in form, size and flower to Goldmound. Mix them for the contrasting foliage colors or keep them to themselves. Soil adaptable. Full sun to partial shade. Prune in early spring. Z3. **ME Grown.** (18-30" transplants)

5642 Fire Light Spirea, $12.00



ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop



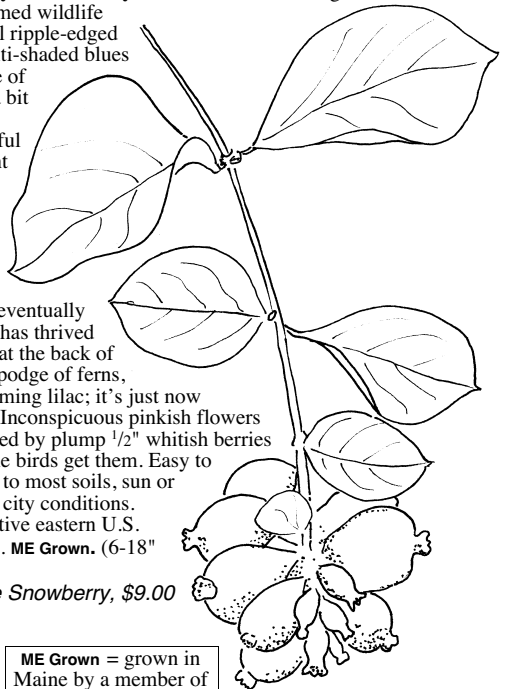
***S.* 'Goldmound' Spirea** 1-2' x 2-3' (*S. japonica* var. alpina x *S. bumalda* 'Goldflame') WH Perron introduction, Quebec, Canada, 1980. Low mounded bushy shrub with small outstanding yellowish light green foliage. Holds its yellow color all summer, much better than Goldflame. Pink flowers in late June-July. Recommended for perennial and shrub borders. We've got ours tucked into a spot along the stone wall edge of one of the perennial gardens. At its best in northern areas. Prefers full sun. Z3. **ME Grown.** (18-30" transplants)

5643 Goldmound Spirea, $12.00

***S.* x *vanhouttei* 'Renaissance' Spirea** 6-8' x same. A spectacular large mounded fountain of pure white flowers in late spring on long arching branches that reach up and out and then drape to the ground. Renaissance is a Bridal Wreath spirea with improved disease resistance. Named for the wedding wreaths made from the abundant floriferous stems. Each dense corymb is like a little bridal bouquet. The epitome of the vase-shaped shrub and for many, the only real spirea. Dark blue-green foliage turns orange-red in fall. Not a plant for a small space. Very showy as a specimen or en masse. Full sun. Soil adaptable although it prefers it well-drained. Drought tolerant. Extremely rugged. Z3. **ME Grown.** (18-30" transplants)

5698 Renaissance Spirea, $12.00

***Symphoricarpos albus* White Snowberry** 5-6' x same. Also called **Common Snowberry** or **Waxberry**. Broad rounded arching spreading long-stemmed wildlife shrub. Medium-small ripple-edged foliage of muted multi-shaded blues and greens. The edge of each leaf is unique, a bit like sassafras in that respect. Quite beautiful all summer. Excellent for holding soil on a steep shady moist bank and providing good wildlife cover and forage at the same time. Will spread with age and eventually form colonies. Mine has thrived for years in a corner at the back of the house in a hodgepodge of ferns, raspberries and a looming lilac; it's just now beginning to spread. Inconspicuous pinkish flowers in late spring, followed by plump 1/2" whitish berries which persist until the birds get them. Easy to transplant, adaptable to most soils, sun or shade, even clay and city conditions. Drought tolerant. Native eastern U.S. south to Virginia. Z3. **ME Grown.** (6-18" transplants)



5720 White Snowberry, $9.00

ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop

***Syringa* Lilac** is known nearly everywhere by some variation of the Persian word *lilak* (meaning 'bluish'), but lilacs actually range from brilliant white to pink to red to every conceivable shade of purple and even blue. From small shrubs to large shrubs and trees, compact vase-shaped specimens to huge rounded spreading masses, only the crabapple offers a greater selection among ornamental woody plants. Twenty-three species make up the genus *Syringa*, two of which are native to the limestone mountains of southeastern Europe, while the rest are native to the temperate Far East. First brought to America nearly four hundred years ago by French Jesuit missionaries, there are ancient specimens on Michigan's Mackinac Islands with trunks nearly two feet in diameter.

Lilacs are excellent alone or in hedges. Deep green glossy heart-shaped foliage looks good from spring through fall. Intensely fragrant blooms in May over a period of several weeks.

As with roses and crabapples, we vary our list each year to give you a wide selection. If you have suggestions for cultivars you'd like us to offer, please let us know. The Lyle Littlefield Garden remains the best place in Maine to see lilacs in bloom. If words can't do it for you, go up to Orono next May or take a trip down to the Arnold Arboretum just outside Boston for the world-famous Lilac Sunday. (See #**4912**, p. 34, for Tree Lilac.) (large 2-3 year old transplants)

***S.* x *tribrida* 'Miss Canada' Lilac** (*S.* x *josiflexa* 'Redwine' x *S. prestoniae* 'Hiawatha') 6-9' x same. William Cumming introduction, Morden Ag Research Center, Morden, Canada, 1967. Masses of deep red buds followed by lovely fragrant single pink blossoms after most other lilacs have faded. Every spring the common *vulgaris* lilacs come and go. Days later I walk outside and am knocked back by a wonderful fragrance. My brain says, "What?" Then I remember and look up. There is the deep pink—nearly red—Miss Canada greeting me as though saying, "And you thought lilac season was over!" Frequently recommended as one of the best of the unusual. Outstanding plant. Z2. **ME Grown.**

5792 Miss Canada Lilac, $13.00

***S. vulgaris* Common Purple Lilac** 12-15' x same. A mass of medium-light purple blooms every year. A magnificent New England sight for nearly 400 years. When a nursery friend looked out my living room window and thought I had some fancy new cultivar, I chuckled, "Nope, just the good old common purple." Never a disappointment. Suckers freely, the best lilac for a spreading hedge. Z2. **ME Grown.**

5801 Common Purple Lilac, $13.00

***S. v.* 'Alvan R Grant' Lilac** ('Rochester' x 'Madame Charles Souchet') 6-9' x same. Richard Fenicchia introduction, 1995. Large fragrant single purple blooms with distinctly curved petals and a reverse silvery cast. Red-purple buds. The flowers sit above the foliage creating a magnificent display. Named in honor of the plant breeder and former Director of Parks in Rochester, NY. Grant introduced one of the most important modern lilacs, 'Rochester', dubbed by John Fiala as "the most outstanding lilac ever produced." Non-suckering habit. Z3/4. **ME Grown.**

5807 Alvan R Grant Lilac, $13.00

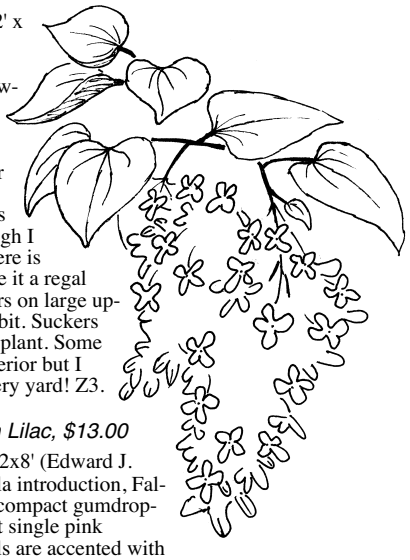
***S. v.* 'Charles Joly' Lilac** 10x10' Victor Lemoine et Fils introduction, Nancy, France, 1896. Purple buds open into highly fragrant dark reddish-magenta double flowers on somewhat narrow 4-6" moderately loose panicles. I'd call it a bright rosy-pink-purple. Lighter and redder than most of the standard varieties. Narrow upright habit with some suckering. Z3. **ME Grown.**

5825 Charles Joly Lilac, $13.00

Lilacs are adaptable, easy to grow and practically maintenance-free. Plant them in a well-drained location in moderately rich soil. Sandy gravelly loam is perfect. They prefer sun at least two-thirds of the day. We suggest planting them with a shovelful of lime. Add another shovelful of lime every three years. A yearly mulch of manure or compost will encourage spectacular annual blooming.

How to Prune Lilacs

As the plant matures, prune off a quarter of the new suckers and oldest growth, a few main stems each year, and keep them trimmed down to an attractive height. No need to cut off spent flowers, but for best appearance remove flower heads as soon as through blooming, using care not to injure closest pair of leafy branches.



***S. v.* 'Ludwig Spaeth'** 10-12' x same. ('Andenken an Ludwig Späth') Späth Nursery, Berlin, 1883. This is the "Sparkle Strawberry" of lilacs. Ludwig Spaeth's deep rich purple flowers are always always always a knock-out. Dark, yes, but never so dark that the color becomes flat and the highlights lost. This is a magnificent purple. Although I hesitate to use the word red, there is enough red in the purple to give it a regal look. Single deep purple flowers on large upright spires. Upright growth habit. Suckers profusely—an excellent hedge plant. Some say the newer cultivars are superior but I don't see it. Still a must for every yard! Z3. **ME Grown.**

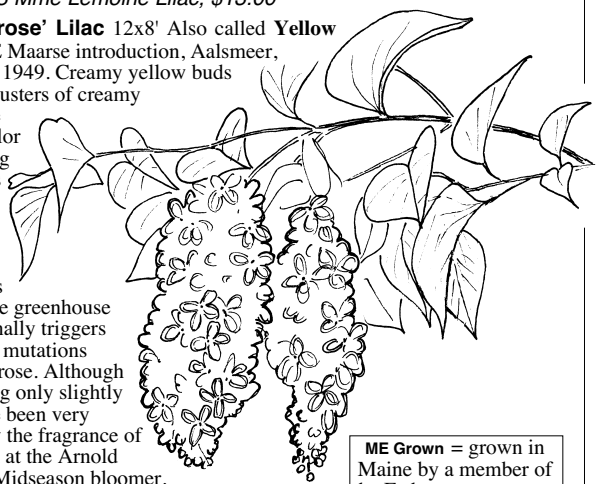
5840 Ludwig Spaeth Lilac, $13.00

***S. v.* Marie Frances Lilac** 12x8' (Edward J. Gardner x Rochester) John Fiala introduction, Falconskeape, Ohio, 1983. Small compact gumdrop-shaped clusters of very fragrant single pink flowers. The whitish-pink petals are accented with minute yellow centers, creating the effect of a faint yellowish-pink. Very nice. Another on the Arnold Arboretum's list of the top twenty lilacs for New England gardens. Midseason bloomer. Probably Z3. **ME Grown.**

5843 Marie Frances Lilac, $13.00

***S. v.* 'Mme. Lemoine' Lilac** 12x12' (Marie Legreye x open pollinated.) Victor Lemoine et Fils, Nancy, France, 1890. Mme. Lemoine is the standard by which other white lilacs are judged. It really is pure white. Very fragrant, large flowers in clusters so thick the shrub looks like one massive bloom. Open, slightly broad shrub. Provides a beautiful accent for the pinks and purples. A favorite of the late plantsman Roger Luce of Newburgh who maintained a magnificent collection of lilacs for decades. Z3. **ME Grown.**

5853 Mme Lemoine Lilac, $13.00



***S. v.* 'Primrose' Lilac** 12x8' Also called **Yellow Wonder**. DE Maarse introduction, Aalsmeer, Netherlands, 1949. Creamy yellow buds opening to clusters of creamy yellow-white blooms, a color unique among lilacs. This is not white. When forcing lilacs for winter arrangements in Europe, the greenhouse heat occasionally triggers amazing bud mutations such as Primrose. Although listed as being only slightly fragrant, I've been very impressed by the fragrance of the specimen at the Arnold Arboretum. Midseason bloomer. Z3. **ME Grown.**

ME Grown = grown in Maine by a member of the Fedco growers coop

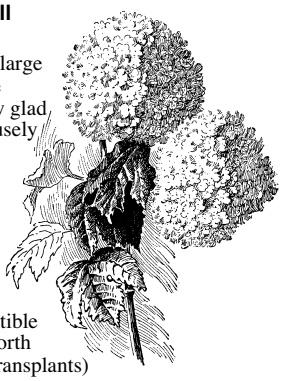
5882 Primrose Lilac, $13.00

***S. v.* 'Sarah Sands' Lilac** 8-10' x 8-12' If you're looking for the darkest of the dark purples, this is the one. Voted once again by the Fedco lilac research team as the darkest purple of any lilac in the Arnold Arboretum collection or anywhere else. 'Sarah Sands' appears on the Arnold's list of 50 lilacs recommended for New England, selected for its distinctive shade of violet-purple single blooms. Upright form, blue-green foliage. Z3. **ME Grown.**

5886 Sarah Sands Lilac, $13.00

***Viburnum* 'Emerald Triumph'** 5-6' x same. (*V. burejaeticum* x *V.* x *rhytidophylloides* 'Alleghany') U Minn Landscape Arboretum. A fast-growing upright slightly spreading shrub with a soft magical appearance and uniquely fragrant creamy-white flat-topped flowers. Blooms first in late spring and then again in summer. Furry foliage and soft pastel-colored pubescent stems. Considered an excellent source of butterfly and bee forage. The birds will clean up the black fruit in the fall. Excellent in groupings or as a specimen. Sun or partial shade. Prefers decent well-drained soils but can handle dry conditions better than other Viburnums. Easy to transplant. No serious pests or disease. Parents native to China. Z4. **ME Grown.** (6-18" transplants)

5930 Emerald Triumph Viburnum, $10.50

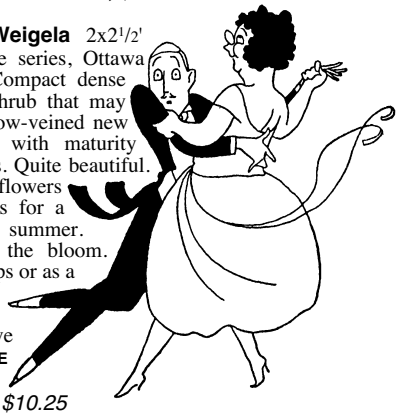


***V. opulus* 'Roseum' Common Snowball Viburnum, Guelder Rose** or **European Snowball** 10-12' x same. Extremely showy large double snowball-like white flowers cover the vigorous shrub in spring and remind you how glad you are that winter is really over. Bears profusely enough to have one heck of a snowball fight. Large coarse old-fashioned rounded habit, popular in Maine for generations and in Europe for over 400 years. Dark green three-lobed maple-like foliage. Plenty of bright red berries for the birds. Excellent in borders. Easy to grow. Adaptable to a wide range of soils but happy in wet and even boggy spots. Flowers best in full sun. Susceptible to viburnum leaf beetle. Native to Europe, North Africa and northern Asia. **ME Grown.** (6-36" transplants)

5940 Snowball Viburnum, $10.50

***V. plicatum 'Mariesii'* Maries Doublefile Viburnum** 8-10' x same. Charles Maries introduction, Veitch Nursery, Chelsea, England, 1877. Rounded shrub with distinctly horizontal stepped branching habit frosted with spectacular parallel rows of creamy white flowers that float above the foliage in spring. Absolutely magnificent in bloom though not fragrant. Dirr calls it "Possibly the most elegant of flowering shrubs." Dark green foliage turns red-purple in fall. Impressive large red fruit clusters turn black toward summer's end. Plant more than one if you're looking for fruit. Prefers moist well-drained soils. Will not tolerate heavy clay or other poorly drained locations. Sun or light shade. Species native to eastern Asia. Z5. (6-18" transplants)

5943 Maries Doublefile Viburnum, $10.50

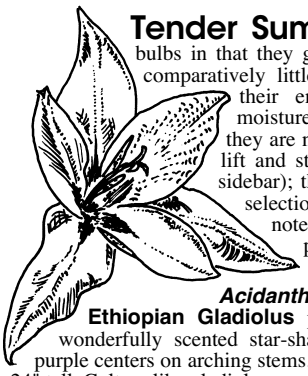


***Weigela florida* 'Tango' Weigela** 2x2½' Complex cross. Weigela Dance series, Ottawa Experiment Station, Canada. Compact dense rounded slightly vase-shaped shrub that may arch to the ground. Purple yellow-veined new foliage turns greenish purple with maturity while retaining the yellow veins. Quite beautiful. 1" red tubular funnel-shaped flowers have yellowish throats. Blooms for a month in late spring and early summer. The more the sun the more the bloom. Excellent in borders and in groups or as a specimen. Prefers it well-drained, but thrives in most soil conditions, city or country. Native to eastern Asia. Z4 maybe Z3. **ME Grown.** (6-18" transplants)

5975 Tango Weigela, $10.25

***Wisteria macrostachya* 'Aunt Dee' Wisteria** up to 50' (Species also called **Kentucky Wisteria**.) Magnificent twining vine with pinnate leaves for pillars, trellises, arbors, walls, even trees. Long 12" racemes of lightly fragrant lilac-purple flowers in late spring or early summer look almost like bunches of lavender grapes. Bean-like smooth green seed pods to 4" long. It can be tricky to get them to bloom in northern districts. We recommend light sandy soils, plenty of water and full sun. Excessively fertile soil may result in a lot of foliage and not many flowers. We recommend pruning one third of the growth each winter to encourage bloom. Vines can be quite powerful, so provide a very sturdy structure. Native of southeastern U.S. May need protection in Zone 4 but has even been known to flower in Z3. **ME Grown.** (2-yr. medium vines)

5985 Aunt Dee Wisteria, $11.00



Tender Summer Bulbs are like fall-planted bulbs in that they give you an impressive floral display for comparatively little effort. Bulbs, corms and tubers store their energy which needs only some earth, moisture and sun to be released. Unlike fall bubs, they are not hardy in our climate. Energetic people lift and store them over the winter (details in the sidebar); the rest of us treat them as annuals. Each selection is offered in three different quantities; note the different item number for each package size.

Acidanthera murielæ **Fragrant Gladiolus** or **Ethiopian Gladiolus** produces sword-like foliage topped by wonderfully scented star-shaped 2" white flowers with mahogany-purple centers on arching stems. Beautiful in the garden or as a cutflower. 24" tall. Culture like gladiolus.

6011*: 10/$2.90;*
6012*: 20/$5.00;*
6013*: 50/$11.30*

Anemone coronaria **De Caen mix Anemone** or **Windflower** Charming single flowers 1-3" wide are dark purple-blue, red, rose or white and appear in early summer. Good for borders, containers and cutting. 8-10" tall. Soak knobby tubers in water 24 hours before early-spring planting 1-2" deep, 4-8" apart. Anemones enjoy full sun and light sandy soil but must be kept moist during the growing season.

6021*: 10/$2.95;*
6022*: 20/$5.00;*
6023*: 50/$11.40*

Begonia **x** ***tuberhybrida*** **Tuberous Begonia** Lush textures, intense colors and a tropical aura make this tender temperamental plant well worth cultivating. Velvety flowers bloom all summer, drooping languidly amidst red-tinted foliage. Excellent bedding or container plants. Best in a cool spot with lots of indirect sunlight and air circulation. The books say moist but not soggy fertile soil. I think they *love* moisture. I drench mine every day, feed heavily and stand back to ooh and ah! Plant tubers outside, concave side up, 1/2-1" deep and 12-15" apart when night temperatures rise above 50˚. For a longer season, start indoors and plant out later. Pinch back to encourage more blooms. The Camellia is Multiflora type and the Hanging is, of course, pendulous.

Orange Camellia 12" tall. 2 1/2" tubers.
6031*: 2/$4.50;*
6032*: 4/$8.00;*
6033*: 6/$11.00*

Dark Red Camellia 12" tall. 2 1/2" tubers.
6041*: 2/$4.50;*
6042*: 4/$8.00;*
6043*: 6/$11.00*

Red Hanging Basket 2-3' long. 2 1/4" tubers.
6051*: 2/$4.50;*
6052*: 4/$8.00;*
6053*: 6/$11.00*

Yellow Hanging Basket 2-3' long. 2 1/4" tubers.
6061*: 2/$4.50;*
6062*: 4/$8.00;*
6063*: 6/$11.00*

Tender Summer Bulbs
In our climate, these tender spring-planted summer-blooming bulbs, corms and tubers will not survive the winter outdoors. To save them for next year, dig them up in the fall after the foliage dies, gently brush off any soil and debris, and dry them. Store somewhere dark and cool (40-50˚) in dry peat or sawdust, then replant in spring. You can also grow them in pots and relocate as the weather dictates. Alternatively, treat them as annuals and compost them at the end of the season.

Crocosmia **x** ***crocosmiiflora*** **'Lucifer'** glows in the garden or makes a long-lasting cutflower. Midsummer sprays of bright red flowers opening from bottom to top on curving flower stalks look like bursts of flame above their gladiolus-like foliage. "Lucifer" means "light-bearing" and refers to the blossoms' resemblance to lighted matches. Grows well in pots. 24-36" tall. Plant 3" deep, 3" apart in moist well-drained soil.

6071*: 5/$4.25;*
6072*: 15/$11.00;*
6073*: 30/$19.00*

Dahlia Bushy bedding plant and prolific cutflower producer blooms from midsummer until frost. Native to hot parts of the Americas and first developed as a food crop, ornamental dahlias are descended from years of breeding and hybridizing *D. pinnata* and *D. juarezi*. Earl Waterman grew all this year's stock at his Roadtown Dahlia Patch in Shutesbury, MA. These are large tubers.

D. **Spartacus** Very dark maroon 4–5" flowers, excellent for cuts, on big strong 4' tall plants.

6081*: 1/$3.00;*
6082*: 3/$7.75;*
6083*: 6/$13.80*

D. **Yin Yang** Red and white 3" flowers. Our grower says the dark green foliage on 2' tall sturdy plants is unique and attractive.

6091*: 1/$3.00;*
6092*: 3/$7.75;*
6093*: 6/$13.90*

D. **Earl's Small Mix** Earl's tall mix has been such a success that we're listing his small mix which includes some antique varieties. Many colors, and the charming flowers are all 1" or less. Plants range from 1-3' tall.

6101*: 2/$4.90;*
6102*: 4/$8.75;*
6103*: 8/$15.50*

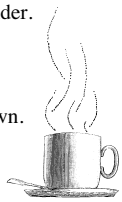
D. **Earl's Tall Mix** As popular as ever in its tenth year on our list, includes pink, yellow, light purple, white, red and dark red 3-6" flowers, pompon and decorative (standard) styles. Plants 2–4' tall.

6111*: 2/$4.90;*
6112*: 4/$8.75;*
6113*: 8/$15.75*

Dahlia Grows best with 3-4 hours of direct sun per day, but will tolerate conditions from full sun to light shade. Plant 3-4" deep, 12-24" apart. Conventional wisdom says to plant after danger of frost is past, but our grower in Massachusetts plants his the same time as his peas. He believes early planting is important and says the plants will recover if the first foliage is killed by frost. Dahlias often need staking, but close plantings can support each other. Because dahlia blooms are susceptible to insect damage, especially in the bud stage, think out a control program ahead of time. Watch out for tarnish bugs, leaf hoppers and thrips. Frequently picking the flowers keeps some pests down.

***Gladiolus* Sword Lily** is a showy summer bloomer and excels as a cutflower. Each 36" tall stalk is covered with 10 or more open funnel-shaped flowers that bloom from bottom to top. Named for the their sword-like leaves; a *gladiolus* was a small Roman sword. Gladiolus bulbs are 1½" and up.

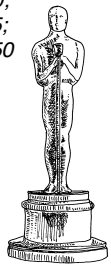
G. 'Blue Tropic' deep lavender.
***6121**: 10/$3.50;*
***6122**: 20/$6.25;*
***6123**: 50/$13.50*



***G.* 'Espresso'** dark rich red-brown.
***6131**: 10/$3.50;*
***6132**: 20/$6.25;*
***6133**: 50/$13.50*

***G.* 'Green Star'** yellow-green edges intensify to lime-green throats.
***6141**: 10/$3.50;*
***6142**: 20/$6.25;*
***6143**: 50/$13.50*

***G.* 'Nori'** violet-blue with prominent cream accent.
***6151**: 10/$3.50;*
***6152**: 20/$6.25;*
***6153**: 50/$13.50*



***G.* 'Oscar'** intense solid crimson.
***6161**: 10/$3.50;*
***6162**: 20/$6.25;*
***6163**: 50/$13.50*

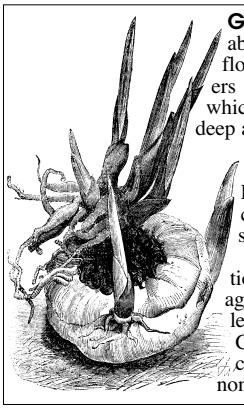
***G.* 'Peter Pears'** solid orange.
***6171**: 10/$3.50;*
***6172**: 20/$6.25;*
***6173**: 50/$13.50*

***G.* 'Rose Supreme'** peachy rose with lighter highlights.
***6181**: 10/$3.50;*
***6182**: 20/$6.25;*
***6183**: 50/$13.50*

***G.* 'White Prosperity'** bright white, ruffled.
***6191**: 10/$3.50;*
***6192**: 20/$6.25;*
***6193**: 50/$13.50*

Large-Flowering Glad Mix
***6201**: 10/$2.75;*
***6202**: 20/$5.00;*
***6203**: 50/$10.75*

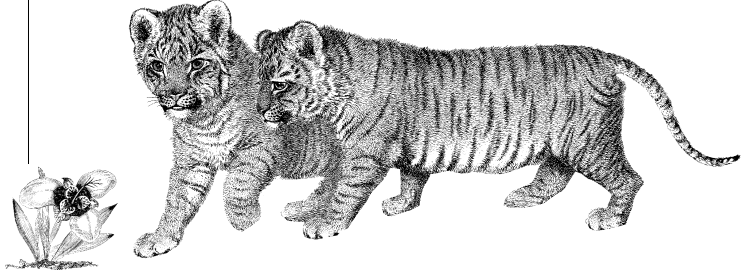
Nanus Glad Mix miniature, mixed colors, many bicolors, 24" tall. I was going to drop these until my first one bloomed. They're darling! Very satisfying clumped in a bed or as cuts. Some suppliers offer these as Hardy Glads, supposed to be hardy in Zone 5, but mine in the warmest part of Zone 4 did not come back the year I tested them.
***6211**: 10/$4.25;*
***6212**: 20/$7.25;*
***6213**: 50/$16.00*



Gladiolus Each stalk blooms for about a week, about 8 weeks after planting. Stagger plantings for flowers from summer to frost. Cut when 2-3 flowers have opened, taking care to spare the leaves which feed the developing corm. Plant corms 4-6" deep and 6" apart after the last spring frost. Hilling or staking may be needed if their sword-shaped foliage and 3-4' flower spikes get top heavy. Dig up the corms after the tops have died, discard the old one, clean the new one, dry, and store loose (no peat) in a cool dry place.

Thrips are a problem for glads, and infestations—indicated by yellowing and spotted foliage—are aggravated by water stress. Be prepared lest they harm your plants and prevent flowering. Consider a control program—possibilities include insecticidal soap, garlic, pyrethrum or rotenone—to use at the first sign of infestation.

***Tigridia pavonia* Tiger Flower Mix** Neat looking triangular 5-6" flowers consist of three big flat solid-colored petals on the outer half, which join three smaller petals to form a cup-shaped center. The inside of the cup has dark mottled markings resembling those of a jaguar, the "tiger" of the name. Plant in full sun, very well-drained soil, keep moist. Blooms in August on stalks 2-3' tall with glad-type foliage about 20" tall.
***6221**: 5/$1.80;*
***6222**: 15/$3.70;*
***6223**: 30/$6.50*



Herbaceous Perennial Plants

Most of the perennial plants we offer are hardy at least into Zone 4. USDA hardiness zone (chart on page 3) follows each description. See sidebar below for planting instructions. The list is alphabetized by botanical names, in italics, followed by common names. Each selection is offered in three different quantities; note the different item number for each package size.

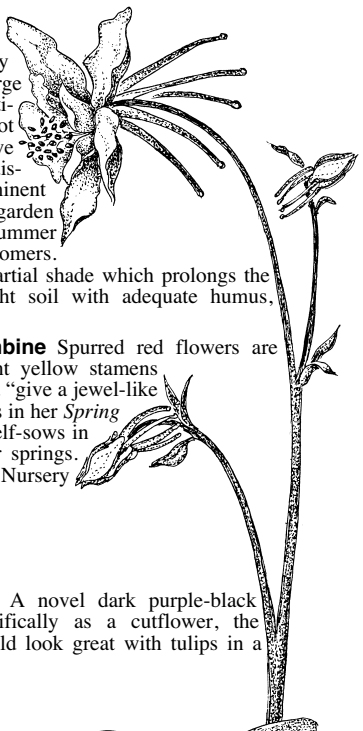
Aconitum napellus **English Monkshood** or **Friar's Cap** produces dense showy spikes of deep violet-blue helmet-shaped flowers above elegant palmate foliage in late summer. Plant in a partially shaded, cool and moist location for longest-lasting flowers. An excellent cutflower—cut when 1/3 to 1/2 the spike is in bloom. Grand delphinium-style blooms rarely need staking. I love watching bumble bees climb under the hood and completely disappear into the flowers then clamber back out again covered with pollen. The entire plant is poisonous; wash your hands after handling or cutting. 36-40" tall. Plant 15-20" apart in moist soil. Z3.

***6231**: 1/$2.90;*
***6232**: 3/$7.00;*
***6233**: 6/$12.00*

Alcea rosea **Hollyhock 'Chater's Double' Mix** Our offering this year illustrates the meaning of **fully double** in garden-talk. While single flowers have, yes, a single row of petals around their centers, doubles have *many* rows of petals. A fully double flower is the most extravagant, being totally filled with petals. Chater's Double provide a spectacular excess of bloom, with its assortment of large fully double hemispherical flowers in mixed colors. Self-sowing staple of old-fashioned gardens, hollyhocks produce tall spires of covered with flowers for extended bloom through July and August. Their colors range from white through the pinks into rose and maroon with an occasional yellow or salmon. Officially perennial, they can be short-lived, and are best cultivated as a biennials which readily self-sow once established in favorable conditions. Like full sun. 4-6' tall. Wind protection or staking is essential. Plant 12-18" apart in moist well-drained soil. Z3.

***6241**: 1/$2.90;*
***6242**: 3/$7.00;*
***6243**: 6/$11.75*

Aquilegia **Columbine** In early spring round-lobed leaves emerge as little stacks which unfurl prettily when little else is green. Not long after, flowers dance above the foliage on vertical stems displaying their characteristic prominent five spurs. Good for a cutting garden or border. Foliage dwindles in summer heat to make room for late-bloomers. Tolerates full sun but prefers partial shade which prolongs the flowering season. Plant in light soil with adequate humus, moisture and drainage. Z3.



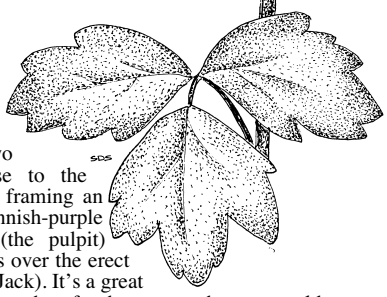
A. canadensis **Wild Columbine** Spurred red flowers are highlighted by noticeable bright yellow stamens which hang below the petals and "give a jewel-like effect," as Marilyn Dwelley says in her *Spring Wildflowers of New England*. Self-sows in my dooryard and brightens our springs. 12-24" tall, plant 8-12" apart. Nursery propagated.

***6251**: 1/$3.75;*
***6252**: 3/$9.50;*
***6253**: 6/$17.00*

A. vulgaris **'Black Barlow'** A novel dark purple-black double columbine. Bred specifically as a cutflower, the blooms stand 24–30" tall. Would look great with tulips in a bed or vase. Plant 12-18" apart.

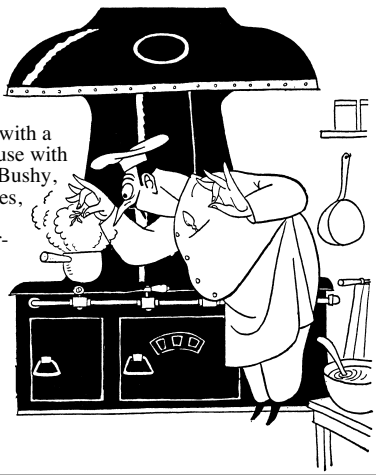
***6261**: 1/$2.90;*
***6262**: 3/$7.00;*
***6263**: 6/$12.00*

Arisaema triphyllum **Jack-in-the-Pulpit** In midspring one or two compound leaves emerge close to the ground, each with three leaflets framing an upright stem topped by a tannish-purple 3" long cuplike spathe (the pulpit) which contains and arches over the erect greenish-yellow spadix (Jack). It's a great pleasure, one I still remember, for the two- or three-year-old set to lift the flap and see Jack. Native Americans used the dried root medicinally, but calcium oxalate crystals in the fresh plant are intensely irritating. Easy to grow in moist woodsy soil with plenty of humus and shade. Wildflower native to the eastern U.S. About 12" tall. Nursery propagated. Z4.



***6271**: 1/$3.00;*
***6272**: 3/$7.50;*
***6273**: 6/$13.75*

Artemisia dracunculus* var. *sativa **'Tarragon' French Tarragon** really is culinary tarragon, the flavoring with a hint of anise well known for its use with vinegar, salads, poultry and fish. Bushy, with long narrow grey-green leaves, looks like a small shrub. Mine provided years of trouble-free performance and culinary pizzazz. 18-40" tall. Easy to grow, especially in poor dry soil, full sun. Needs good drainage. Some use a winter mulch. Z4.



***6281**: 1/$3.90;*
***6282**: 3/$10.00;*
***6283**: 6/$18.20*

Bare-Root Perennial Plants

Treat bare-root perennials like tender annuals for their first growing season, when they typically focus on root growth. Once established, usually in the second year, they are vigorous and floriferous.

When you receive your order, open the bags and check the stock immediately. Roots and crowns should be firm and pliable, not soft or brittle. If they are slightly dry, add a little water or, if they are going to be potted up soon, soak the roots. Generally, a little surface mold is harmless and will not affect the plant's future performance. If you cannot pot them up immediately, store them in a cool (35-40°) location for a short time.

Pot up the roots in well-drained potting mix. Most plants need a deep 6" pot or a 1-gallon container. Avoid coiling the roots in the bottom of undersized containers. Grow newly potted perennials for a few weeks in a protected location in indirect light at 50-60° and keep from freezing. Wet and/or cold conditions for an extended period may cause rotting. Begin feeding when new growth appears. Keep dry fertilizers away from plant crowns. Use animal manures with caution as they can promote fungal and bacterial diseases.

Transplant outside once they show some top growth and the danger of frost has passed. Dig a hole about twice the size of the pot, loosening the surrounding soil and adding compost or fertilizers as necessary. Generally, plant the top of the crown just below ground level, less than an inch from the surface of the soil.

Nearly all perennials appreciate a fall mulch and a sidedressing of compost or leaf mold in the spring.

***Aster* Starwort** or **Frost Flower** are familiar summer and fall wildflowers throughout the nation. These varieties are selected for outstanding color and form but are still robust and easy to grow. Flowers provide great displays in fall, attract butterflies and beneficial insects, and last a long time in the vase. Deer don't usually eat them. Plant singly, group in a border, or naturalize in meadows or on banks. Cut back slightly in early-mid June to induce an abundance of 1 1/2-2" rayed blooms from late August into October. Asters are at their peak when most plants have faded. Plant 12-18" apart in light moist humusy soil in full sun with good air circulation. Z4.

***A. novae-angliae* 'Alma Potschke'** Surprising wonderful intense salmon-rose. One of my favorites. 30-36" tall.

***6291**: 1/$4.00;*
***6292**: 3/$10.50;*
***6293**: 6/$19.00*

***A. n.-a.* 'Purple Dome'** Deep purple flowers with an excellent compact habit. 18". Maine-grown at FAIIM (Farming As If It Mattered) Farm.

***6301**: 1/$3.50;*
***6302**: 3/$9.00;*
***6303**: 6/$16.00*

***Astilbe* Feather Flower** or **False Spirea** lends a novel touch to the border and is easy to grow, hardy and long-lived. Long-lasting plumes of feathery flowers are good for drying and provide an interesting contrast to more ordinary petaled blossoms. Elegant fern-like foliage forms an attractive clump all season and comes in a wide range of sizes and shades. Convention holds Astilbe to be a partial-shade plant that absolutely requires a moist humusy acid soil when grown in full sun. That's true in warmer areas, but in central Maine it seems to tolerate full sun in a wide range of conditions. Blooms July and August. Said to be deer-resistant, but I wouldn't bet the ranch. Stock has 2-3 "eyes." Plant 12-18" apart and divide clumps every few years. Z4.

***A. arendsii* 'Fanal'** Classic favorite with dark red flowers and an upright perky habit. Earliest red to bloom. Glossy foliage is mahogany-red in spring, dark green in summer. Early-midseason. 18-24" tall.

***6311**: 1/$3.00;*
***6312**: 3/$7.50;*
***6313**: 6/$13.00*

***A. chinensis* 'Milk and Honey'** Creamy-white sprays turn light pink as they mature. I haven't seen these growing but was seduced by the wonderfully delicate color in catalog pictures. *Chinensis* species tolerate sun and drought well. Mid to late season. 28-32" tall.

***6321**: 1/$4.80;*
***6322**: 2/$9.00;*
***6323**: 3/$12.00*

A. thunbergii* 'Ostrich Plume'** Also called ***Straussenfeder. Large open coral-pink flowers have a distinctive arching drooping habit. New foliage bronze-tinted. Late season. 30-40" tall.

***6331**: 1/$3.00;*
***6332**: 3/$7.50;*
***6333**: 6/$13.00*

***Caltha palustris* Marsh Marigold** Also called **Cowslip** or **Kingcup**. Ever see a clump of big buttercup-like flowers blooming in the middle of a bog in very early spring? Probably marsh marigold. Variable in size and habit with glossy dark green toothed heart-shaped leaves and covered with waxy single bright yellow flowers up to 2" across. Moisture-loving, grows in rich boggy soil, water's edges or shallow water. Full sun. A powerful plant: native Americans used it as an emetic, diuretic and diaphoretic. Some books say that people eat the leaves and flowerbuds, others indicate that it is rather poisonous, as one might guess from the medicinal uses. All parts of the plant may irritate the skin. Native wildflower. 8-24" tall.

***6341**: 1/$3.00;*
***6342**: 3/$7.75;*
***6343**: 6/$13.50*

***Convallaria majalis* Lily of the Valley** A top-seller for all 21 years that we've listed it. Makes a hardy bedding or border plant and an excellent ground cover, even in dry shady areas. Easy to grow under any conditions, but prefers partial to full shade. Produces long stems of bell-shaped fragrant white flowers in late spring-early summer, followed by small orange berries. Intense fragrance and delicate shape add welcome notes to bouquets. Plant pips 2" deep, 3-5" apart in rich moist soil. 6-8" tall. Z2.

***6351**: 5/$3.25;*
***6352**: 10/$5.75;*
***6353**: 25/$13.00*

***Delphinium* 'Magic Fountains' Delphinium** No staking needed for these sturdy early-summer 28-36" spikes densely covered in flowers. The Magic Fountain series is long-lived and easier to grow than the big delphiniums, making it a wonderful choice for small gardens. My blue one is over 6 years old now and makes a bigger show every summer, now rivaling the big ones for profusion of lavish flowers. Mix includes white, pink, lavender, lilac, sky blue and dark blue. Sidedress lightly in early, mid and late spring for best show. Remove spent flowerstalks to encourage fall rebloom. Plant 12-24" apart in highly fertile non-acid loam in full sun or light shade. Our plants this year are in 3" plugs. Z3.

***6361**: 1/$3.50;*
***6362**: 3/$9.00;*
***6363**: 6/$17.00*

***Dicentra* Bleeding Heart** Graceful racemes arch over clumps of attractive cut foliage. Distinctively shaped flowers dangle in a row on each raceme like charms on a bracelet. Hardy long-lived plant when it gets rich moist soil and partial shade. Z3.

***D. cucularia* Dutchman's Breeches** White yellow-tipped flowers look like so many tiny pantaloons hanging above very finely cut foliage. Blooms with the daffodils and makes a wonderful accent in an early spring garden. An ephemeral: whole plant dies down after flowering; little tubers remain dormant until the following spring. Native eastern wildflower, rescued from sites about to be developed and nursery propagated. 8-12" tall.

***6371**: 1/$2.90;*
***6372**: 3/$7.50;*
***6373**: 6/$14.25*

***D. formosa* 'Luxuriant' Western Bleeding Heart** Blooms all summer and tolerates heat and drought better than any other *Dicentra*. Cherry red flowers defy the elements as they dangle above lush finely-cut light green foliage which is pretty as a fern's. Excellent border plant with spreading habit, 12-15" tall.

***6381**: 1/$4.00;*
***6382**: 3/$10.50;*
***6383**: 6/$19.00*

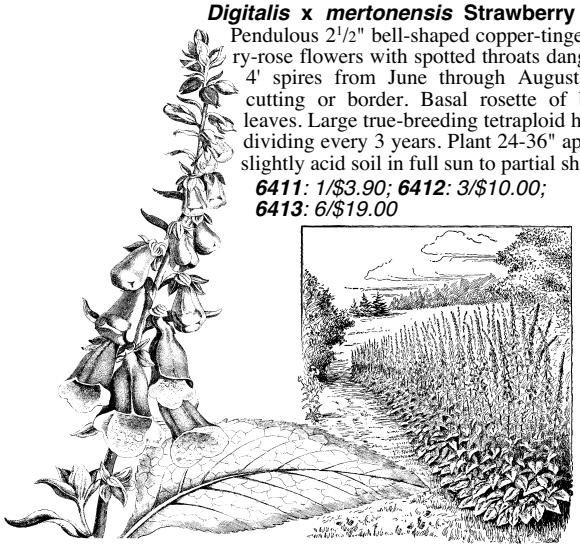
***D. spectabilis* Old-Fashioned Bleeding Heart** Old garden favorite delights every spring with pink heart-shaped flowers with white detail. Blooms with late tulips and complements them well. Also useful for cutting. Prefers plenty of room to bush out. Mine surprised both me and its neighbors when it became over 6' wide in two years. I moved it rather unceremoniously to a less hospitable spot and it has been manageable ever since. Foliage tends to die back in summer heat. Plant 2-4" deep, 24" apart. 30-36" tall. Our stock has 2-3 eyes.

***6391**: 1/$3.00;*
***6392**: 3/$7.50;*
***6393**: 6/$13.75*

***D. s.* 'Alba' White Bleeding Heart** Same as above except the dangling flowers are pure white and the plant habit, like so many Albas, is less robust, more restrained.

***6401**: 1/$3.25;*
***6402**: 3/$7.75;*
***6403**: 6/$14.00*

***Digitalis* x *mertonensis* Strawberry Foxglove**



Pendulous 2½" bell-shaped copper-tinged strawberry-rose flowers with spotted throats dangle along 3-4' spires from June through August. Good for cutting or border. Basal rosette of big velvety leaves. Large true-breeding tetraploid hybrid needs dividing every 3 years. Plant 24-36" apart in moist slightly acid soil in full sun to partial shade. Z4.

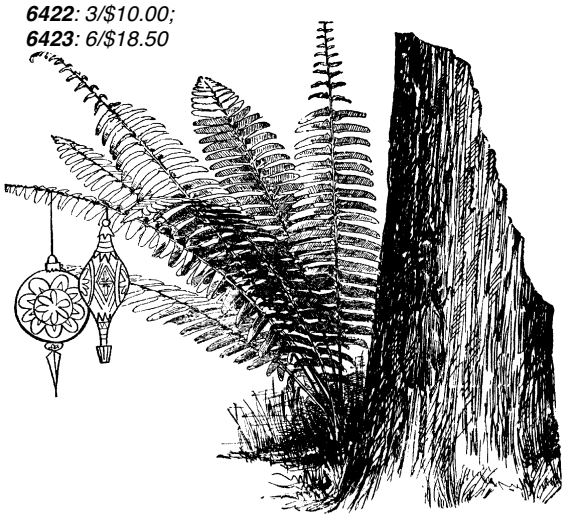
***6411**: 1/$3.90; **6412**: 3/$10.00;*
***6413**: 6/$19.00*

Ferns One summer day long ago, I drove a southern friend around Maine. "What magnificent beautiful ferns!" she kept exclaiming. Until that day, they were merely plants on the side of the road to me. Since then I've always noticed what lush roadside fern displays we enjoy in Maine several months of the year.

Ferns are flowerless spore-producing perennials represented by over 10,000 species worldwide, ranging from 70' tropical tree ferns to teeny plants sprouting from cracks in alpine rock. Several make wonderful low-maintenance foliage plants that thrive in moist woodsy humus-rich soil and lend a serene aura to a shady garden or landscape. Mulch if necessary to keep crowns from drying out.

Christmas Fern *Polystichum acrostichoides* remains evergreen in warmer zones, where it's widely used for Christmas cut greenery. Shuttlecock of fronds with ladder-like parallel leathery dark green leaves is partially evergreen in our climate. Provides good fall interest and emerges in very early spring to complement woodland flowers. Moist acidic soil, light shade, tolerates sun given sufficient moisture. Plant 2-3' apart. 18-24" tall. Northeastern native. Z3.

***6421**: 1/$3.90;*
***6422**: 3/$10.00;*
***6423**: 6/$18.50*



Hay-Scented Fern *Dennstaedtia punctilobula* Flourishes in bright shade in dry woodlands, even in the sun on rocky slopes and stony fields. Spreads easily along creeping rhizomes from which a single frond sprouts every few inches, forming large colonies. Delicate ferny foliage is yellow-green and has hairy surfaces which give it a soft nonreflective quality. Smells like (you guessed it) hay when crushed or dried. Tolerates poor soil. Makes an excellent ground cover for a troublesome spot, but can be invasive so be mindful where you locate it. Native to eastern N. America. 18-32" tall. Z3.

***6431**: 1/$3.50;*
***6432**: 3/$9.00;*
***6433**: 6/$16.00*

Japanese Painted Fern *Athyrium niponicum* 'Pictum' The most decorative fern I know and surprisingly rugged for such a fancy plant. The Perennial Plant Association's Plant of the Year for 2004. Soft grey-green background with purplish wine-red stems and markings, accented by silvery-grey highlights. Needs partial shade, moist soil. Deciduous. 8-18" tall with spreading habit. Plant 8-12" apart. Z3.

***6441**: 1/$5.50;*
***6442**: 2/$9.00;*
***6443**: 3/$12.50*

Lady Fern *Athyrium filix-femina* Graceful bright green fronds are twice compound with very numerous leaflets resulting in a fine-textured classic fern appearance. Many variant forms, a few taller than 4' but most are under 2'. Works as a foundation planting on the shady sides of my house. Spreads easily from falling spores in moist soil. Tolerates more sun and drier soil than most ferns. Z3.

***6451**: 1/$3.90;*
***6452**: 3/$10.00;*
***6453**: 6/$19.00*

Maidenhair Fern *Adiantum pedatum* Delicate whorled form makes it one of my favorites. Glossy black stems curve up and then droop toward the ground with more narrow black stems growing in arches from them. Tiny distinct ginkgo-like green leaves line every stem. Plant 12" apart. Likes semi-shade or shade, moist soils. Native to eastern North America. Very hardy. Z2.

***6461**: 1/$3.90;*
***6462**: 3/$10.00;*
***6463**: 6/$19.00*

Ostrich Fern *Matteuccia struthiopteris* A delicately textured bright green deciduous fern with a golden hue in the light. Frond tips curl like ostrich feathers. One of the largest hardy ferns, 3-7' tall, and spreads by underground runners, so give it room. Likes open shade, woods and wet banks. Tolerates full sun in swampy areas. Native to Europe, but well established and welcome in North America. Z2.

***6471**: 1/$4.25;*
***6472**: 3/$11.50;*
***6473**: 6/$19.50*

Royal Fern *Osmunda regalis* One of the showiest garden ferns, makes a great focal point on a waterside or in a woodland. Attains giant proportions. Slow-growing plant gets to be 6' tall and over 9' wide in humus-rich moist-to-wet soil. Soft and wavy deciduous lance-shaped light green fronds can reach 3' long. Sometimes called **Flowering Fern** because some of the fronds have brown spore cases on their tips which lend a decorative tassel-like appearance. Evolutionarily speaking, *Osmunda* is one of the oldest plant genera, native to North and South America and Asia. Some royal fern individuals are said to be 1000 years old. Z3.

***6481**: 1/$4.25;*
***6482**: 3/$11.50;*
***6483**: 6/$19.50*

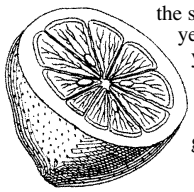
***Helianthus decapetalus* 'Loddon Gold' Perennial Sunflower** Small tidy gardens needn't bother, but if you have a wild streak or space to fill perennial sunflowers are the bees knees. Easy-to-grow vigorous upright 5' plants are covered with 3" rich yellow-gold double flowers from late summer into fall. Blossoms resemble decorative dahlias—all petals with no visible centers—and are good for cutting. Perfect for the back of the border or an informal accent. Likes full sun and moist well-drained soil. Plant 24" apart. Z3.

***6491**: 1/$3.75;*
***6492**: 3/$10.00;*
***6493**: 6/$17.50*

***Helleborus orientalis* Hellebore** or **Lenten Rose** Mysterious and slightly sinister, evergreen in all but the coldest climates and blooming in winter or very early spring, hellebore was named by the ancient Greeks and is native to the chalky soils of Macedonia, Asia Minor and the Caucasus. Mentioned in English as early as 1400 as having poisonous and medicinal properties, specifically for mental disease. Looks like a small shrub, 15-18" tall, with leathery green leaves palmately divided into many lobed leaflets. Saucer-shaped flowers, 2-3" across, appear in very early spring, last up to eight weeks, and vary in color from white and greenish-white to pink. In general, hellebores like dappled shade and neutral to alkaline soil with plenty of organic matter and good drainage, but *H. orientalis* is the easiest of the genus to grow and tolerates a wide range of conditions. Will self-sow when content. Does not like to be disturbed and is dormant in summer. *Caution: all parts of the plant are poisonous*. Z4, possibly Z3.

***6501**: 1/$6.00;*
***6502**: 2/$10.50;*
***6503**: 3/$15.00*

***Hemerocallis* Daylily** Champion low-maintenance perennial produces a bush of narrow arched leaves topped with lily-shaped flowers from July to September. *Hemerocallis* means *beautiful day*, referring to the fact that each flower lasts only a day, but since each scape (or stem) is covered with buds, bloom periods can be extensive and the long stems work well in bouquets. Very hardy, flourishes under a wide range of conditions, from full sun to shade, wet to dry. Trouble-free, chokes out weeds. For foundation planting, terrace, brookside, border or wild garden. Plant 12-18" apart in average soil; benefits from a shovel or two full of compost. Of the over 40,000 registered cultivars, approximately 13,000 are still in circulation. And with hundreds of new ones added each year (I'll bet there's a daylily breeder in your area) the names get steadily sillier, from 'Canadian Border Patrol' to 'Jedi Free Spirit' and 'Spiritual Corridor' (something we all need) to 'Spacecoast Gator Eye'. Apparently all the good names are taken. We list more familiar varieties that are well-established in popularity. The theme this year is solid colors. Although none is strictly solid, each cultivar below provides blocks of good clear colors. Z2.



***H. flava* Lemon Lily** or **Custard Lily** When you see the first daylilies of the season blooming by old houses, they're probably yellow and probably Lemon Lilies. Clear bright yellow star-shaped flowers. Old variety with a lemony floral scent. 24" tall. If we run out of local supplies we will substitute commercially grown. **ME Grown.**

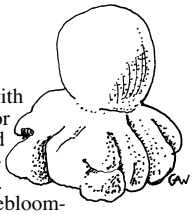
***6511**: 1/$3.20;*
***6512**: 3/$8.00;*
***6513**: 6/$14.75*

***H.* 'Autumn Red'** Intense mahogany brick red with a thin yellow stripe down the middle of every other petal. Glowing orange-yellow throat illuminates its classy good looks. Mid to late season 24-42" tall.

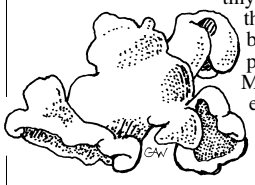
***6521**: 1/$3.20;*
***6522**: 3/$8.00;*
***6523**: 6/$14.25*

***H.* 'Barbara Mitchell'** Beautiful soft pink 6" flowers have ruffled petals, yellow-green throats. Long bloom time and good rebloomer. I imagine this would be great with 'Gentle Shepherd'. 20" tall, midseason.

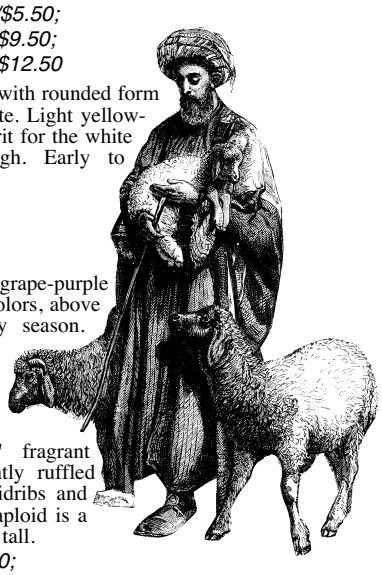
***6531**: 1/$5.50;*
***6532**: 2/$9.50;*
***6533**: 3/$12.75*



***H.* 'Buttered Popcorn'** Completely butter yellow with tiny green throat. My fondness for this cultivar *might* be influenced by the name, but the 6" tetraploid flowers are knockouts. Midseason and another good rebloomer. 32" tall.



***6541**: 1/$5.50;*
***6542**: 2/$9.50;*
***6543**: 3/$12.50*



***H.* 'Gentle Shepherd'** 5" flowers with rounded form open creamy-white and fade to white. Light yellow-green throat. Won an Award of Merit for the white blossoms: a breeding breakthrough. Early to midseason. 29" tall.

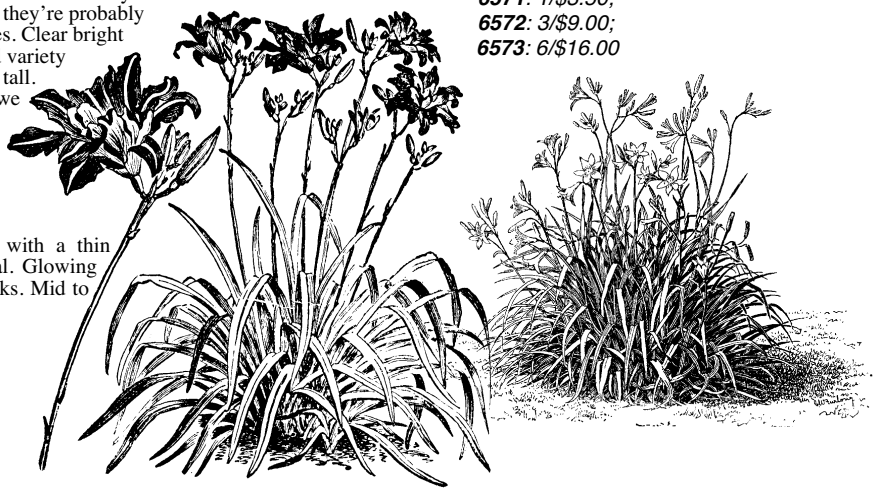
***6551**: 1/$5.00;*
***6552**: 2/$9.00;*
***6553**: 3/$12.00*

***H.* 'Little Grapette'** Small 2" light grape-purple flowers, far from ordinary daylily colors, above compact clumps of foliage. Early season. 20-26" tall.

***6561**: 1/$4.00;*
***6562**: 3/$10.50;*
***6563**: 6/$18.50*

***H.* 'Ruffled Apricot'** Huge 7" fragrant glowing apricot flowers have lightly ruffled substantial petals, lavender-pink midribs and golden throats. Award-winning tetraploid is a vigorous grower. Midseason. 26-30" tall.

***6571**: 1/$3.50;*
***6572**: 3/$9.00;*
***6573**: 6/$16.00*

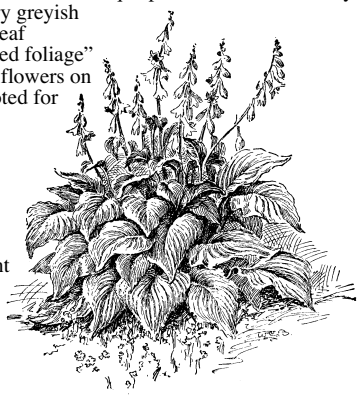


Hosta has bold foliage in orderly mounds with dependable sprays of fragrant bell-shaped flowers on tall stalks. Valuable and cherished low-maintenance border plant provides shade-loving ground cover spring to frost. Formerly called **Plantain Lily** or **Funkia** but I have never heard either used. A friend described them as "so architectural!" With their varying colors, textures and clump sizes, hostas alone under trees can make a woodland garden. Hostas tolerate a wide range of soil conditions, but need moisture. Those with blue and variegated leaves develop best color in shade. Deep shade gives fewer flowers. Plant 2-4' apart in rich soil with adequate humus. Divide every 4-5 years, or disturb clumps as little as possible; they improve with age as they spread and establish. Z3.

H. **'Guacamole'** Sport of 'Fragrant Bouquet' created a lot of buzz in the hosta world and won a Hosta of the Year award in 2002. Pale lavender flowers are large and fragrant, but the leaves are what everyone is excited about. Very substantial and large with irregular dark green edging and deep veins; centers are the yellow-green of avocado slices. Colors intensify in light and with age. Rapid grower with good sun tolerance. Clumps are 22-24" tall, scapes to 36".

6581*: 1/$9.00;*
6582*: 2/$16.00;*
6583*: 3/$21.00*

H. **'Krossa Regal'** The Royal Horticultural Society handbook on hostas captured it for me: "Giant blue-grey hosta of unique poise. Leaves: narrowly wedge-shaped, blade wavy, powdery greyish blue-green carried on long upright leaf stalks.…Distinct…for its vase-shaped foliage" in clumps up to 40" high. Pale lilac flowers on stalks up to 5'. A big blue beauty noted for good performance under adverse conditions.



6591*: 1/$3.50;*
6592*: 3/$9.50;*
6593*: 6/$17.50*

H. **'Royal Standard'** Deep rich glossy green ribbed foliage. Fragrant white flowers in late summer on scapes reaching to 40". Tolerates sun and drought. Clumps around 20" tall. Two-for-one sale.

6601*: 2/$4.25;*
6602*: 6/$10.50;*
6603*: 12/$19.00*

H. sieboldiana **'Frances Williams'** Outstanding cultivar often called the best hosta. Leaf interiors rich blue-green with a wide variable golden-yellow edge. Clumps around 36" high. White flowers on shortish slightly pendant stalks harmonize with the foliage rather than stand above it.

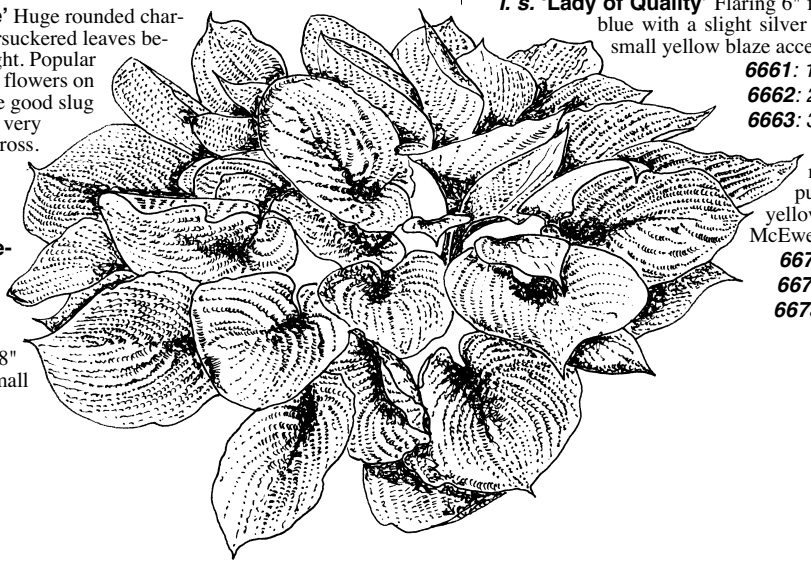
6611*: 1/$3.50;*
6612*: 3/$9.50;*
6613*: 6/$17.00*

H. **'Sum and Substance'** Huge rounded chartreuse-green very thick seersuckered leaves become quite golden in sunlight. Popular award winner has pale lilac flowers on leaning scapes. Said to have good slug resistance. Clumps become very large: to 36" tall and 60" across.

6621*: 1/$3.50;*
6622*: 3/$9.50;*
6623*: 6/$17.50*

H. undulata **'Mediovariegata'** Leaves have white centers and undulating broad light green margins. Overall effect is light and bright. Lavender flowers. 18" tall. Two-for-one sale on small nursery stock.

6631*: 2/$3.50;*
6632*: 6/$10.00;*
6633*: 12/$14.00*



Iris **spp.** comprise a vast genus characterized by beautiful six-petaled flowers (three **standards** above and three **falls** below) and sword-like foliage. The species on this year's list divide into two general kinds which need different culture. At the risk of being botanically incorrect, I'll try to sort out their differences. All that we list are rhizomatous, meaning that they have roots instead of bulbs. (Fedco Bulbs lists some bulbous iris for fall planting.) Some rhizomatous iris are **bearded**—the "beard" is little hairs on the center of each fall—while the **beardless** have smooth petals. Bearded iris have a cylindrical tuber-like root from which more ordinary long roots grow. This "tuber" likes to sit horizontally on the soil surface only a third to half in the soil; the beardeds cannot tolerate standing water or damp foliage from being crowded by weeds. They require excellent drainage and enjoy a hot exposed location. In contrast, the beardless Japanese and Siberian iris have a woody crown from which long roots grow; they like a lot of moisture and can tolerate some standing water and cooler locations.

I. **Dwarf Bearded Iris Ruby Massé** Dwarf beardeds are short early-blooming versions of tall bearded iris, what most of us think of as "regular" iris. Complex parentage involves *I. germanica* so sometimes called **German Iris**. Ruby Massé is an extremely dark purple, so electric and vibrant that our grower reported seeing it glowing from a distance through foliage when it bloomed in early June. Fragrant. A great multiplier; we call it Ruby after the woman who gave it to all her East Vassalboro neighbors, one of whom gave it to me. 18-20" tall. Supplies may be limited. Definitely Zone 4 and I would try them in Zone 3. **ME Grown.**

6641*: 1/$3.75;*
6642*: 3/$9.75;*
6643*: 6/$17.00*

I. ensata **'Imperial Magic' Japanese Iris** Immense flat blooms in late June and July float seraphically above graceful clumps of willowy narrow leaves. Unlike the current administration's attempts at imperial magic, this cultivar succeeds. Large 6-7" blossoms are white suffused with purple veins. Great around ponds or streams. Needs ample moisture during active growth and flowering. Often takes 2 years to establish, then is best left undisturbed for a long time. Plant 6-8" apart in slightly acid soil, in full sun or partial shade. 28-36" tall. Z4.

6651*: 1/$4.50;*
6652*: 2/$8.00;*
6653*: 3/$10.50*

I. sibirica **Siberian Iris** produces delicate flowers in late June on thin stems excellent for cutting. Tall slender foliage looks good all summer. Tolerates most conditions, but performs best in rich moist acid soil. Plant 12-15" apart in full sun or partial shade. Give them room to spread, and divide clumps every few years.

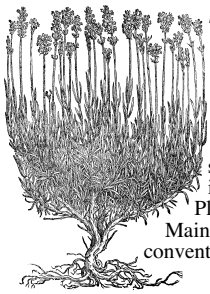
When, at age 86, renowned Maine iris breeder Dr. Currier McEwen began to scale back his operation, Steve Jones was privileged to dig a large portion of McEwen's collection for his Fieldstone Gardens in Vassalboro. We are delighted that Steve is supplying us again from that collection. Z3. **ME Grown.**

I. s. **'Lady of Quality'** Flaring 6" flowers a remarkable shade of hazy light blue with a slight silver edge and darker throat. Each fall has a small yellow blaze accented with white. 30" tall.

6661*: 1/$5.75;*
6662*: 2/$10.50;*
6663*: 3/$14.00*

I. s. **'Reddy Maid'** Opens bright magenta-purple and fades to a deep purple. Flashy good looks. Throat is yellow with bronze and white markings. McEwen intro, 1978. 24-30" tall.

6671*: 1/$5.75;*
6672*: 2/$10.50;*
6673*: 3/$14.50*

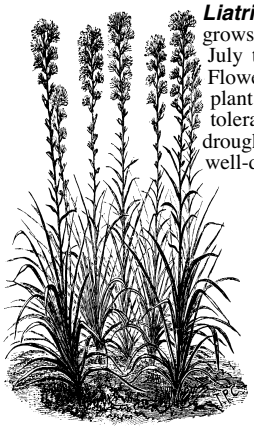


Lavandula angustifolia **Lavender 'Munstead'** Spires of lavender-blue 15-18" tall flowers treasured for their scent. Valued for dried arrangements, potpourri and herb bundles, lavender's aroma soothes the nervous system and perfumes the linen closet. Blooms all summer. Aromatic grey-green lanceolate foliage, bushy habit. Makes a nice border, rockery, slope, edging or specimen plant. Prune woody stems in spring. Likes full sun; demands good drainage. Plant 12-18" apart. Still organically grown by Blessed Maine Herb Farm. If supplies run short we will substitute conventionally grown at a reduced price. Z4. **ME Grown.**

6681*: 1/$5.50;*
6682*: 2/$10.50;*
6683*: 3/$14.50*

Leucanthemum* x *superbum **'Alaska' Shasta Daisy** (formerly *Chrysanthemum* x *superbum*) brightens up any border suffering from mid-summer doldrums. An improvement on the wild daisy, it amazes our grower every year with its long bloom time and big flowers. I get reports like, "in full bloom for three weeks and still not flopped over." Starts blooming in mid-July here and still looks decorative in mid-August. White petals in tidy ring around a bright yellow disk, 3-4" flowers excellent for cuts; pick right after they open. Cut near the ground when it has finally finished blooming and the dark green glossy foliage will grow back as a tidy mound. Plant 12-18" apart in full sun to partial shade in well-drained soil. 30-40" tall. Z4. **ME Grown.**

6691*: 1/$3.00;*
6692*: 3/$8.00;*
6693*: 6/$14.50*



Liatris spicata **Blazing Star** or **Gayfeather** grows stiff dense "bottlebrush" flower spikes, from July to September, which open from the top down. Flowers are good for cutting; leave 1/3 of stem on plant. The foliage is fine and grass-like. Hardy, tolerates a broad range of growing conditions, but not drought. 20-30" tall. Plant 3" deep, 8-12" apart, in well-drained fertile soil. Z3.

L. s. **Blazing Star** "Regular" liatris, magenta-purple.
6701*: 10/$2.75;*
6702*: 20/$4.75;*
6703*: 50/$10.00*

L. s. **'Floristan White'** Customers requested the white one. Let's check it out.
6711*: 10/$3.25;*
6712*: 20/$5.50;*
6713*: 50/$12.50*

Lilium **Lilies** Queen of the perennial border, fabulously showy and surprisingly easy to grow. Breeders have been working on them for thousands of years and continue to develop scores of new cultivars every year. It's confusing terrain, but briefly: **Asiatic** types bloom early, are a bit smaller (under 4') than Orientals and often have their star-shaped blossoms facing upward. **Oriental** strains tend to be taller (may need staking) and bloom later, with their very fragrant and flamboyant blossoms slightly pendant on tiny stems off the main stem. **Tigers** have petals that are tightly curved back, hairy stems and bulbils where the leaf meets the stem.

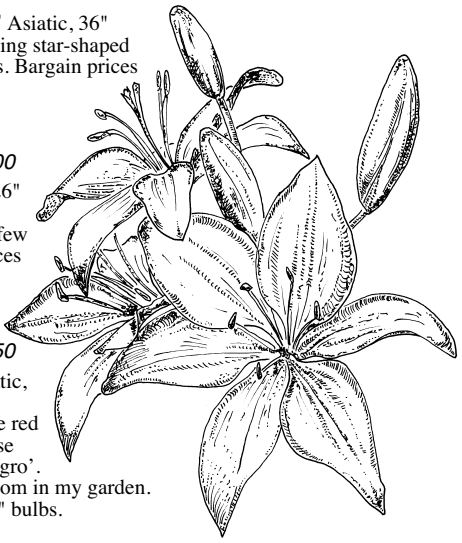
Excellent as bedding plants or cutflowers, good as specimens or in solid masses. Lily leaf beetle may be a problem in your area. See sidebar for some details. Light shade prolongs summer blooms and keeps the bulbs cool. Mulch in full sun. Plant bulbs 6-8" deep, 6" apart in rich well-drained soil, slightly acid with good humus content. Z3.

Lily leaf beetle (*Lilioceris lilii*) has made its way to central Maine. We've had good results picking the first flush of adults and dropping them in soapy water; we've seen very few larvae. Some leaves had holes in them but the damage was nothing like the denuded stalks that some gardeners described. Standard organic insecticides are also effective.

Small attractive bright red beetles, the adults, overwinter in soil and plant debris and emerge in early spring to munch, mate and lay tiny dull-orange eggs in irregular rows on the undersides of leaves. Larvae hatch in about a week and feed for 16-24 days on leaves of lilies (not daylilies), fritillaria, and nightshades. The larvae are the real nuisance: voracious eaters, they carry their excrement on their backs to deter predators which makes them mighty unappealing. They then drop to the ground where they pupate in cocoons. In about 25 days they emerge as adults.

L. **'Connecticut King'** Asiatic, 36" Long-lasting upward-facing star-shaped buttercup-yellow flowers. Bargain prices on 1 3/4–2" bulbs.
6721*: 2/$3.25;*
6722*: 6/$8.00;*
6723*: 12/$14.00*

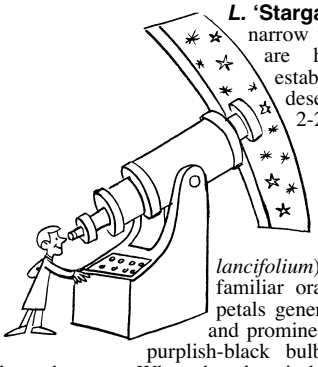
L. **'Lollypop'** Asiatic, 26" Bicolor, white with hot purplish-pink tips and a few dots. Sweet. Bargain prices on 1 3/4–2" bulbs.
6731*: 2/$3.50;*
6732*: 6/$8.75;*
6733*: 12/$15.50*



L. **'Monte Negro'** Asiatic, 42" Stir a dab of dark chocolate into fire engine red and you've got the intense deep color of 'Monte Negro'. Early: the first lily to bloom in my garden. Bargain prices on 1 3/4–2" bulbs.
6741*: 2/$2.90;*
6742*: 6/$7.75;*
6743*: 12/$14.25*

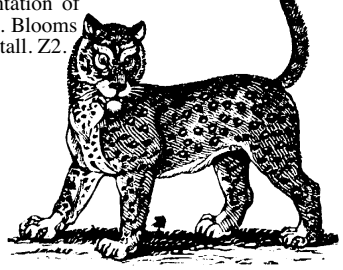
L. **'Casa Blanca'** Oriental, 40-44" (but I've seen them blooming from 3-8'). Pure white with textured white specks, and bobbing russet anthers. Absolutely gorgeous and their alluring fragrance fills the garden. Always one of our most popular offerings. 2-2 1/4" bulbs.
6751*: 1/$3.00;*
6752*: 3/$6.00;*
6753*: 6/$11.00*

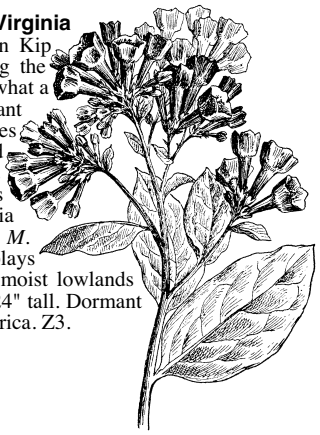
L. **'Dizzy'** Oriental, 30-34" White with a contrasting line of dark rosy-red brushed along the length of each petal and many rosy specks. Very fragrant. 2-2 1/4" bulbs.
6761*: 1/$3.00;*
6762*: 3/$7.00;*
6763*: 6/$12.50*



L. **'Stargazer'** Oriental, 24-30" Deep rose with narrow white edge, spotted. Fragrant flowers are huge when plants become well established. Continues to be wildly and deservedly popular. Great prices on 2-2 1/4" bulbs.
6771*: 2/$3.50;*
6772*: 6/$8.75;*
6773*: 12/$15.50*

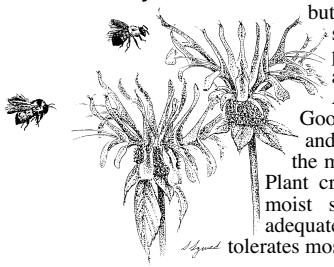
L. tigrinum **Tiger Lily** (synonym *L. lancifolium*) Robust variety produces scads of familiar orange nodding flowers with recurved petals generously flecked with dark purple dots, and prominent rusty-red anthers. Distinguished by purplish-black bulbils in the leaf axils along the stem. When the plant is happy, the bulbils will drop and sprout baby lilies by the score. A few shovelfuls of compost keep my thriving plantation of tiger lilies happy year after year. Blooms in August in central Maine. 2-5' tall. Z2. 1 1/2" bulbs.
6781*: 2/$3.00;*
6782*: 6/$8.00;*
6783*: 12/$14.75*





***Mertensia virginica* Bluebells** or **Virginia Bluebells** or **Virginia Cowslip** When Kip brought bluebells into the office during the daffodil bloom one year, I remembered what a spring treat they are. Clump-forming plant with erect stems and oval veined leaves bears clusters of nodding bell-shaped flowers on terminal cymes. Pink buds open to sky-blue or purple-blue flowers which look a lot like those of Pulmonaria or borage. In fact, another name is *M. pulmonarioides*. Beautiful in shade displays with ferns, Dicentra and Scilla. Prefer moist lowlands and acid woodsy soil in part shade. 18-24" tall. Dormant in summer. Native to eastern North America. Z3.

***6791**: 1/$3.25;*
***6792**: 3/$8.50;*
***6793**: 6/$15.00*



***Monarda didyma* Bee Balm** or **Oswego Tea** is loved by bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Attractive showy flower heads with tubular petals on pincushion heads borne above colorful bracts in July and August. Coarse aromatic foliage. Good for borders, naturalized in wet areas, and for cutting. A vigorous member of the mint family—some might say invasive. Plant crowns 16-20" apart in light shade in moist soil. Thrives in full sun if given adequate moisture or mulched with leaf mold; tolerates most conditions. Z3.

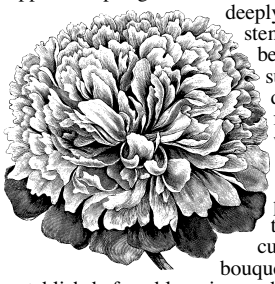
***M.* 'Jacob Cline'** Very large 5" red flowers, good vigor and mildew resistance. Now embraced in the nursery trade as "the best red." 3-5' tall.

***6801**: 1/$3.50;*
***6802**: 3/$8.75;*
***6803**: 6/$15.50*

M.* 'Prairie Night'** Also called ***Prärienacht. Bright lilac-purple with red-tinged bracts. 3-4' tall.

***6811**: 1/$3.25;*
***6812**: 3/$8.50;*
***6813**: 6/$14.50*

***Pæonia lactiflora* Garden Peony** or **Chinese Peony** Red shoots appear in spring and form a bushy clump, about 3x3', of lustrous dark green deeply lobed foliage. Fat spherical buds on sturdy stems above the foliage gradually open into large beautiful flowers from late spring to early summer. (Ants may help the buds to open so don't discourage their presence.) Huge flowers are stunning on the bush and wonderful when cut. Most are fully double but the Japanese type features a single round of petals that frames a clump of different petals inside. If you catch flower buds when they are just marshmallow soft, they can be cut and stored for weeks in the fridge for bouquets later. May take up to 3 to 5 years to establish before blooming and resents being disturbed. Wait several years, until the plants have many stems, before attempting to divide. Stock has 2-3 eyes. Z3.



***P. l.* 'Festiva Maxima'** Introduced in 1851 and possibly my favorite peony, though it would be hard to decide between Festiva and Sarah Bernhardt. Large fragrant double white flowers have tiny crimson lines traced randomly through some of the inner petals. Early season. 36-39" tall.

***6821**: 1/$8.50;*
***6822**: 2/$14.50;*
***6823**: 3/$19.00*

***P. l.* 'Kansas'** Vivid crimson red fully double blooms on very strong stems do not fade in sun. Has set the standard for double reds since its introduction more than half a century ago. Early to midseason. 36" tall.

***6831**: 1/$7.00;*
***6832**: 2/$12.00;*
***6833**: 3/$16.00*

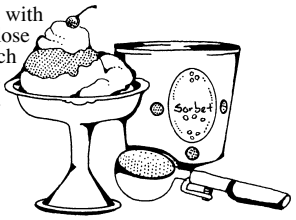
***P. l.* 'Primavera'** First yellow garden peony on our list! Japanese type with a full ball of yellow petals surrounded by a collar of single creamy white petals. Strong stems, excellent for cutting. Midseason. 28" tall.

***6841**: 1/$12.50;*
***6842**: 2/$22.00;*
***6843**: 3/$31.00*

***P. l.* 'Sarah Bernhardt'** Fragrant flowers open with narrow red lines shot onto light rose-pink. Matures to delicate pink with a slight creamy-silvery edge. Can a pink be both warm and silvery? This one is. One of my favorites with exactly the right amount of doubling—appears richly full but not crammed. Late season. 36".

***6851**: 1/$6.50;*
***6852**: 2/$11.50;*
***6853**: 3/$15.50*

***P. l.* 'Sorbet'** "Bomb"-type variety begins with light magenta-pink outer petals which enclose white finely cut inner petals out of which explode more soft-pink petals. The effect is triple-decker and completely over-the-top. Midseason. 28-30" tall.



***6861**: 1/$9.50;*
***6862**: 2/$16.00;*
***6863**: 3/$21.50*

***Pæonia suffruticosa* Japanese Tree Peony** or **Moutan** is expensive, but as garden writer Peter Coats says, "It is worthwhile to sell everything one possesses to buy pæonies, and to dig up everything else in the garden to make room for them." A fashion craze in China by the 7th century, tree peonies appear in poets' songs and as decorative motifs in architecture, porcelain and fabric. 19th century botanical explorer Robert Fortune reported a specimen outside Shanghai that produced 300-400 flowers a year. Deciduous shrub with deeply cut narrow-lobed medium green foliage forms many (though probably fewer than 300 in its first century) large stunning flowers in early June, before Garden Peony. Semi-double extravagantly big flowers with loose satiny petals. Full sun promotes fastest growth but also fades the flowers which do best in dappled shade; fanatics shade plants with umbrellas while they are flowering. 48-60" tall. 1-yr. plants may need 2-3 years to mature before blooming begins. Z4.

***P. s.* 'Hanakisoi' Tree Peony** apricot pink with soft pink petal edge. *Hana* is Japanese for flower and *Hanakisoi* means competition-grade flower.

***6871**: 1/$22.50;*
***6872**: 2/$40.00;*
***6873**: 3/$58.00*

***P. s.* 'Kinkaku' Tree Peony** fully double yellow petals have orange edges giving an overall orange effect.

***6881**: 1/$22.00;*
***6882**: 2/$39.00;*
***6883**: 3/$52.00*

***P. s.* 'Shimanishiki' Tree Peony** bicolor, white petals with red flames, or red striped with white, depending on your point of view.

***6891**: 1/$22.00;*
***6892**: 2/$39.00;*
***6893**: 3/$53.00*

***P. s.* Purple Tree Peony**

***6901**: 1/$17.00;*
***6902**: 2/$29.00;*
***6903**: 3/$40.00*

Garden Peonies Plant 2-3' apart with the eyes (where the growth shoots meet the root) no more than 1-1 1/2" below the surface in well-drained soil, full sun to partial shade. Peonies are extremely long-lived so amend the soil richly when you plant. Compost, very well-rotted manure, bone meal and azomite are all recommended. After that they need only a bit of weeding and feeding to flourish.

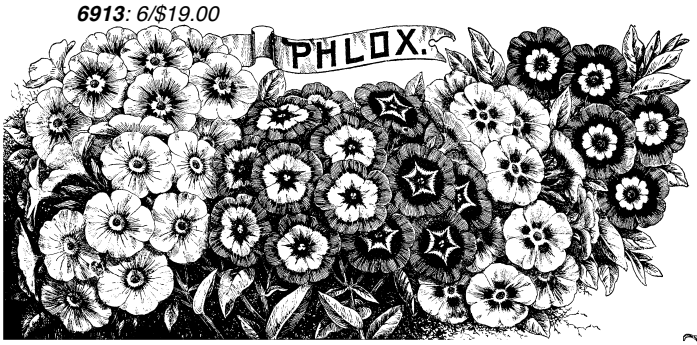
Mature plants often need staking or tying because flowers and buds can be quite heavy. For big plants, I've been using a chicken-wire method that Mary Fowler recommended. Cut a flat circle of chicken wire 2 or 3' in diameter and place it on the shoots when they are 8-10" tall. The shoots lift the wire, grow through it and use it for an invisible support.

Remove spent flowers after blooming, then cut dead foliage to near ground level in fall. Plant along the driveway; a heavy snowbank doesn't bother them.

Tree Peonies tolerate moist soils but require good drainage. Plants thrive in full sun but it may fade flower color. Plant the graft union 2-3" below soil level, in rich well-drained soil. Don't prune except for removing dead wood in spring after plants have leafed out.

Perovskia atriplicifolia **Russian Sage** blooms in midsummer with slender airy spires of lavender-blue tubular flowers. Finely divided grey leaves are aromatic when crushed. 1995 PPA Plant of the Year. Low-maintenance background or filler beautiful with roses or whites and blues. Perovskia has one of the longest bloom times of any blue-flowered plant. Upright habit, semi-woody shrub. Emerges slowly in spring; cut back after frost. Tolerates drought, loves heat and full sun, can't bear standing water. 3-4' tall. Likes to spread out once it gets established; plant 24-36" apart. I suspect that Zone 4 reports of winterkill are from poor drainage rather than cold, so a cautious Z4.

***6911**: 1/$4.00;*
***6912**: 3/$11.00;*
***6913**: 6/$19.00*



Phlox paniculata **Garden Phlox** produces large spreading clusters of fragrant showy long-blooming flowers in mid to late summer when so many blooms are fading, and produces delicate satiny panicles when so many blooms are coarse. Wonderful color and fragrance for accents, border or naturalized area. Attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. Essential component of late-summer wedding bouquets. Extend flowering season by watering and prompt deadheading. Prefers humus-rich soil that stays cool and moist in summer and regular sidedressing. Plant 2' apart, full sun to partial shade. Z3.

P. **'Blue Paradise'** Fragrant lavender-blue flowers have tiny white centers. 20-36" tall.

***6921**: 1/$3.50;*
***6922**: 3/$9.75;*
***6923**: 6/$18.50*

P. **'David'** White flowers cover the plant so completely with enormous (6x7") and fragrant blooms that it was voted the PPA Plant of the Year for 2002. 30-42" tall.

***6931**: 1/$3.00;*
***6932**: 3/$8.25;*
***6933**: 6/$15.50*

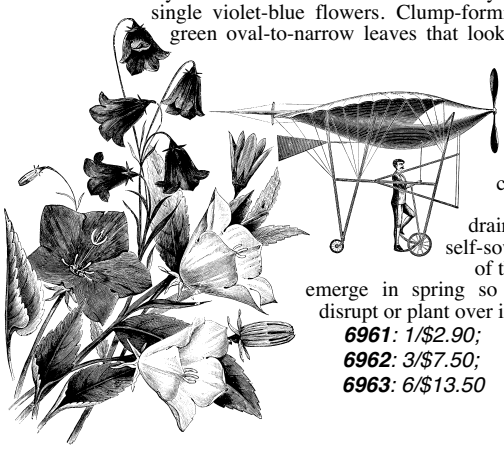
P. **'Orange Perfection'** Vigorous grower is brilliant orange with slightly darker eye. Give the phlox bed a new twist; looks striking with white, red or lavender. 36".

***6941**: 1/$3.00;*
***6942**: 3/$8.25;*
***6943**: 6/$15.75*

P. **'Starfire'** Reliable old favorite often considered the best red. Large (6x6") abundant cherry-red flower clusters are fragrant from midsummer into fall. 25-36".

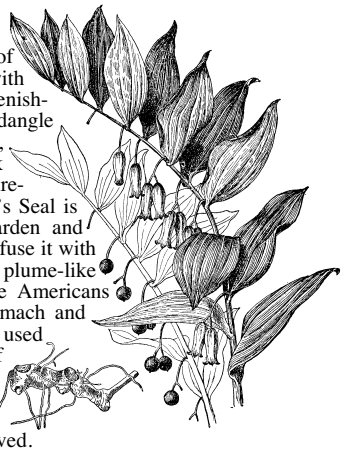
***6951**: 1/$3.00;*
***6952**: 3/$8.25;*
***6953**: 6/$15.50*

Platycodon grandiflorus **var.** ***mariesii*** **Balloon Flower** Named for its buds which really do swell like balloons before they burst into bell-like single violet-blue flowers. Clump-forming plant has dark green oval-to-narrow leaves that look good in most settings. Fascinating balloons appear on upright stems above the foliage in mid to late summer and are good for cutting. Plant 12-18" apart in moist well-drained soil. Sometimes self-sows. 12-24" tall. One of the last perennials to emerge in spring so be careful not to disrupt or plant over it. Z3.



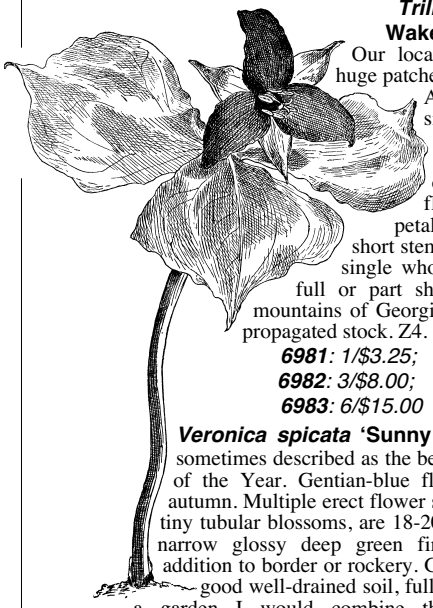
***6961**: 1/$2.90;*
***6962**: 3/$7.50;*
***6963**: 6/$13.50*

Polygonatum biflorum **Solomon's Seal** forms clumps of graceful arching stems about 3' long with long narrow alternate leaves. Greenish-white bell-shaped tubular flowers dangle from the stems in a row in late spring, and become small round blue-black fruits in early fall. Shade- and moisture-loving, with a serene habit, Solomon's Seal is ideal for the shade or woodland garden and makes a good foil for ferns. Don't confuse it with False Solomon's Seal which has a plume-like flower at the *end* of its stem. Native Americans used the root tea for ailments of stomach and lung and for general debility, and used washes from the root for all kinds of external injuries. I am not aware of local herbalists using this native plant nowadays. Sends up a few more stems every year; sturdy and long-lived. Native eastern wild plant, nursery propagated. Z3.



***6971**: 1/$3.50;*
***6972**: 3/$10.00;*
***6973**: 6/$18.00*

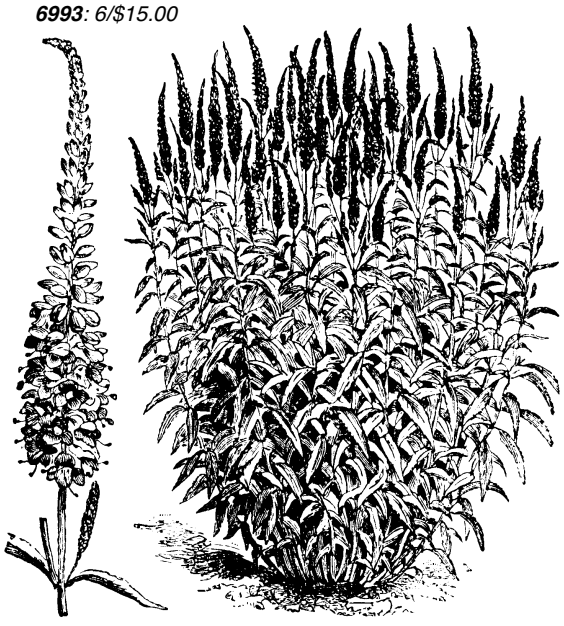
Trillium erectum **Red Trillium** or **Wakerobin** or **Stinking Benjamin** Our local wildflower preserve features huge patches of red trillium blooming in late April, a spectacular and pleasing sight. All the descriptions mention a bad smell, but we don't get the "stinking" part, detecting only a faint oceany hint of tidal flats. Maroon blossom with three petals and three sepals sits erect on a short stem above the three oval leaves in a single whorl. Grows in moist rich woods, full or part shade, from Nova Scotia to the mountains of Georgia, west into Michigan. Nursery-propagated stock. Z4.



***6981**: 1/$3.25;*
***6982**: 3/$8.00;*
***6983**: 6/$15.00*

Veronica spicata **'Sunny Border Blue' Speedwell** is sometimes described as the best veronica. 1993 PPA Perennial of the Year. Gentian-blue flowers from early summer into autumn. Multiple erect flower spikes, each thickly covered with tiny tubular blossoms, are 18-20" tall. Clump-forming plant has narrow glossy deep green finely serrated leaves. Excellent addition to border or rockery. Good for cutting. Easy to grow in good well-drained soil, full to partial sun. If I were building a garden I would combine the blues—Hyssop, Lavender, Platycodon, Perovskia and this one—with white 'David' phlox. But I already have more beds than I can tend. Z3.

***6991**: 1/$3.25;*
***6992**: 3/$8.50;*
***6993**: 6/$15.00*



Perennial Medicinal Plants

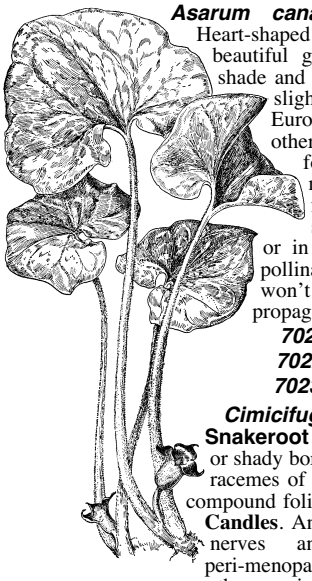
Growing medicinal plants in your garden gives you the opportunity to know their personalities, forms, uses and spirits. It also helps prevent wild plants from being overharvested. Medicine made from your plants returns you to your garden, regardless of the time or the place that you use it.

Many of the other plants we list have a tradition of medicinal use as well. These include lavender, bee balm, peony, rose, elder, hops, ginkgo, linden, hawthorne, witch hazel, blueberry, cranberry and highbush cranberry. (Index on p. 59.)

Like most perennials, these appreciate a fall mulch and a sidedressing of compost or leaf mold in the spring. Some may take a year or more to establish before they flower; roots often take several years to reach harvestable maturity. The organic listings are certified by MOFGA Certification Services and, unless otherwise noted, grown by Gail Edwards of the Blessed Maine Herb Farm in Athens. Supplies may be limited, so order early.

Alchemilla vulgaris **Lady's Mantle** Enchanting tiny fans of leaves emerge in early spring and unfold into a mound of rounded fan-creased silvery grey-green foliage. Sprays of tiny yellow-green stars bloom on 15" tall stalks above the foliage. Most herbals list the medicinal variety as *A. vulgaris*; ornamental growers list a very similar species as *A. mollis* in this botanically bewildering genus. Astringent herb with an affinity for women, Lady's Mantle is a uterine tonic said to promote fertility, also helpful during any hormonal changes. Used as a poultice to tone and firm breast tissue. Also a good addition to the flower border in sun or part shade. Easy to grow in most soils, likes moisture, sun or part shade. Certified organic. **ME Grown.**

7011*: 1/$5.75;*
7012*: 2/$10.00;*
7013*: 3/$14.00*

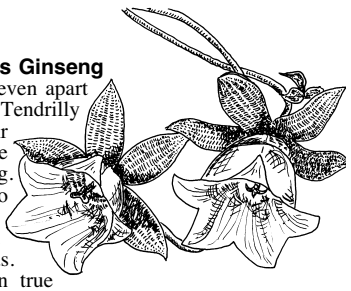


Asarum canadense **Canadian Wild Ginger** Heart-shaped leaves up to 7" wide will spread into a beautiful groundcover 6-12" tall if given humus, shade and plenty of moisture. Leaves are large and slightly fuzzy, not small and glossy like the European species. Aromatic roots used like other gingers for their warming qualities and for soothing indigestion, coughs, colds, motion sickness. Grown for roots and foliage. The small reddish-brown urn-shaped flowers grow near the soil surface or in the leaf mold so crawling insects will pollinate them. They're fun to search for but won't decorate your landscape. Nursery propagated. Z3.

7021*: 1/$3.25;*
7022*: 3/$8.75;*
7023*: 6/$16.50*

Cimicifuga racemosa **Black Cohosh** or **Black Snakeroot** flourishes in the wilder part of the garden or shady border. In late July and August, long arching racemes of creamy flowers rise above the mound of compound foliage, hence another common name, **Fairy Candles**. Anti-spasmodic for cramps, pains, cramped nerves and emotions, included in many peri-menopausal formulas. I've heard quite a few women my age say rather passionately, "I *love* this plant!" Diuretic and anti-inflammatory. Easy to grow, long-lived, needs division or harvest every 4-5 years. 36-72" tall. Plant 30-36" apart in rich moist soil high in humus. Good in boggy spots. Prefers part shade, but tolerates full sun in deep moist soil. We are happy to list certified organic black cohosh grown by Joanna Linden. Supplies limited, so order early. Z3. **ME Grown.**

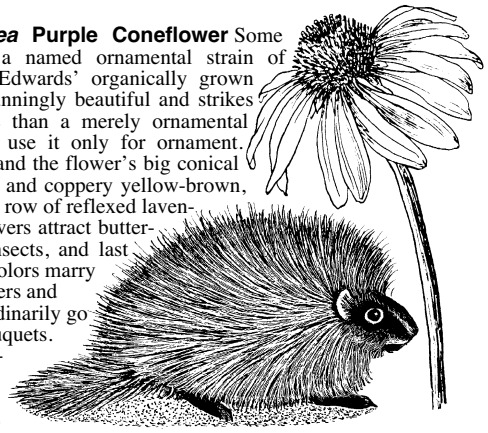
7031*: 1/$5.75;*
7032*: 2/$10.00;*
7033*: 3/$14.25*



Codonopsis pilosula **Poor Man's Ginseng** Fun to grow as a novel ornamental even apart from its medicinal properties. Tendrilly twining vines are about 4' long in their second year and have small ovate leaves. Mature vine about 6' long. Buds look like green peas, swell to little green balloons and flower as green bells with purple veining, then mature to five-sided-balloon seed pods.

Considerably easier to grow than true ginseng. Energizing, adaptogenic, supports the deep immune system. Called *dang shen* in China. Harvest 4- to 6-year-old roots. Sun to part shade, good drainage. Year-old plants are certified organic. Z4. **ME Grown.**

7041*: 1/$7.00;*
7042*: 2/$12.00;*
7043*: 3/$16.00*



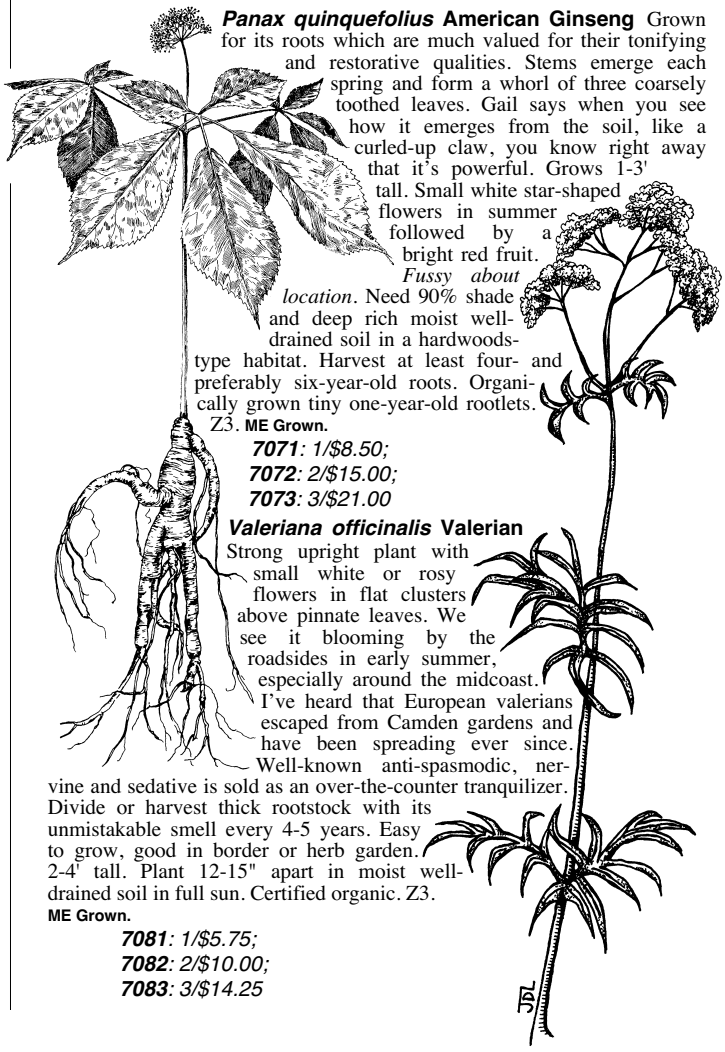
Echinacea purpurea **Purple Coneflower** Some year we may offer a named ornamental strain of Echinacea, but Gail Edwards' organically grown medicinal strain is stunningly beautiful and strikes me as more valuable than a merely ornamental cultivar, even if you use it only for ornament. *Echinos* means spiny and the flower's big conical centers are very spiny and coppery yellow-brown, surrounded by a single row of reflexed lavender-purple petals. Flowers attract butterflies and beneficial insects, and last well when cut. Their colors marry pinks, oranges, lavenders and golds that wouldn't ordinarily go together in beds or bouquets. Tincture the roots of 3-year-old plants for a remedy that gives an immediate boost to the immune system; use it when you feel a cold or flu coming on. Vigorous grower likes full sun and sandy loam, self-sows and tolerates wind, heat and drought once established. 30-48" tall. Plant 20-30" apart in light soil. Certified organic. Z3. **ME Grown.**

7051*: 1/$5.75;*
7052*: 2/$10.00;*
7053*: 3/$14.00*

Hyssopus officinalis **Hyssop** Blue-violet flowers on erect stalks blossom from June through September and are wonderfully ornamental. Well-worth growing for an aromatic low hedge or in the border even if you don't have an herb garden. Bees love it. Leaf infusions long used for sore throats and stomach troubles, flower spikes in cough syrups. Thrives in dry soil, useful on slopes and any sunny difficult place. 12-20" tall. Plant 12-24" apart in poor soil, full sun to light shade. Organically grown. Z3. **ME Grown.**

7061*: 1/$5.75;*
7062*: 2/$10.00;*
7063*: 3/$14.25*

Lavandula **Lavender** See #**6681-6683**.



Panax quinquefolius **American Ginseng** Grown for its roots which are much valued for their tonifying and restorative qualities. Stems emerge each spring and form a whorl of three coarsely toothed leaves. Gail says when you see how it emerges from the soil, like a curled-up claw, you know right away that it's powerful. Grows 1-3' tall. Small white star-shaped flowers in summer followed by a bright red fruit. *Fussy about location*. Need 90% shade and deep rich moist well-drained soil in a hardwoods-type habitat. Harvest at least four- and preferably six-year-old roots. Organically grown tiny one-year-old rootlets. Z3. **ME Grown.**

7071*: 1/$8.50;*
7072*: 2/$15.00;*
7073*: 3/$21.00*

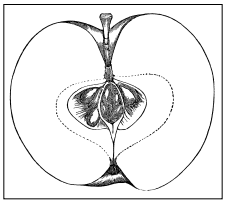
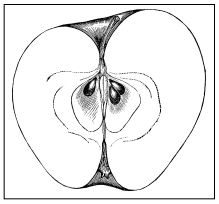
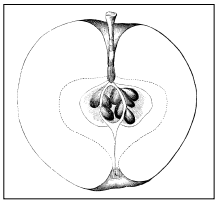
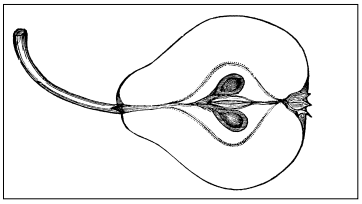
Valeriana officinalis **Valerian** Strong upright plant with small white or rosy flowers in flat clusters above pinnate leaves. We see it blooming by the roadsides in early summer, especially around the midcoast. I've heard that European valerians escaped from Camden gardens and have been spreading ever since. Well-known anti-spasmodic, nervine and sedative is sold as an over-the-counter tranquilizer. Divide or harvest thick rootstock with its unmistakable smell every 4-5 years. Easy to grow, good in border or herb garden. 2-4' tall. Plant 12-15" apart in moist well-drained soil in full sun. Certified organic. Z3. **ME Grown.**

7081*: 1/$5.75;*
7082*: 2/$10.00;*
7083*: 3/$14.25*

Item	Name	Fedco-Coop Grown	Bundle Size	For Wet Spots	For Shady Spots	For Dry Spots	For Wildlife	Vining	Specimen	Hedges	Ground Covers
1384	American Plum		10				♦			♦	
2028	American Plum Seedling	❁									
2029	Delton's American Plum	❁									
2260	Lowbush Blueberry	❁		♦		♦	♦				♦
2280ff	Highbush Blueberry			♦			♦			♦	
2370ff	Grapes						♦	♦			
2577	Anne Raspberry		10				♦			♦	
2660ff	Killarney Raspberry		10-25				♦			♦	
2685ff	Nova Raspberry		10-25				♦			♦	♦
2689	Polana Raspberry		10				♦			♦	
2690ff	Prelude Raspberry		10-25				♦			♦	♦
2700	Royalty Purple Raspberry		10				♦			♦	
2750	Fort Kent King Blackberry	❁	3				♦			♦	♦
2827ff	Kiwi	❁					♦	♦			
2890	American Cranberry	❁	10	♦							♦
2930ff	Juneberry	some		♦	♦	♦	♦				
2970	Pawpaw	❁									
3000	Cornelian Cherry				♦		♦				
3013	Meader Persimmon										
3030ff	Hops		3					♦			
3048	Superchilly Mulberry	❁					♦				
3076	Joel bush cherry	❁					♦			♦	
3082	Beach Plum	❁				♦	♦			♦	
3100	Nanking Cherry	❁					♦			♦	
3130ff	Elderberry	some		♦			♦			♦	
3245	Highbush Cranberry			♦	♦		♦			♦	
3270	Balsam Fir	❁	5		♦	♦	♦			♦	
3282	White Cedar 'Maine Strain'	❁		♦			♦				
3325	American Larch	❁					♦				
3350	Dawn Redwood	❁		♦			♦		♦		
3400	Norway Spruce	❁	5				♦		♦	♦	
3420	Colorado Blue Spruce	❁	5				♦		♦	♦	
3530	Red Pine	❁	5			♦	♦				
3590	American Arborvitae	❁	5	♦	♦		♦			♦	
3620	Eastern Hemlock	❁	5				♦			♦	
3760ff	Chestnut	❁					♦		♦		
3785ff	Hazelnut	❁					♦			♦	
3815ff	Black Walnut	❁					♦		♦		
3985	Red Maple	❁		♦			♦		♦		
3990	Sugar Maple						♦		♦		
4017	Paper Birch Clump						♦		♦		
4030	Catalpa speciosa								♦		
4053	American Yellowwood	❁							♦		
4080	Brown Ash	❁		♦							
4090	Ginkgo	❁							♦		
4093	Honeylocust	❁				♦	♦				
4114	Tuliptree	❁							♦		
4150	Swamp White Oak			♦			♦		♦		
4170	Red Oak	❁				♦	♦		♦		
4190	Cape Rosier Willow	❁		♦							
4195	Niobe Weeping Willow	❁		♦					♦		
4200	Snake Willow	❁		♦					♦		
4205	American Linden						♦		♦		
4240	Redbud				♦		♦		♦		
4245	Fringe tree			♦			♦		♦		
4255	Pagoda Dogwood	❁					♦				
4332	Witch Hazel	❁		♦	♦		♦				
4530ff	Crabapples	❁					♦		♦		
4901	Korean Mountain Ash	❁					♦		♦		
4912	Japanese Tree Lilac	❁				♦			♦		
4923	Camperdown Elm	❁							♦		
4927	Fragrant Abelia	❁							♦	♦	
4930	White Forsythia									♦	
4936	Bottlebrush Buckeye				♦					♦	♦
4945	Bearberry	❁			♦		♦				♦
4954	Dutchman's Pipe				♦			♦			
4961ff	Chokeberry	❁		♦	♦	♦	♦			♦	
4990ff	Butterfly Bush	❁					♦				

Item	Name	Fedco-Coop Grown	Bundle Size	For Wet Spots	For Shady Spots	For Dry Spots	For Wildlife	Vining	Specimen	Hedges	Ground Covers
5027	Siberian Peashrub					♦	♦			♦	
5038	American Bittersweet	❁					♦	♦			
5049	Buttonbush	❁		♦	♦		♦				
5060	Red Flowering Quince	❁					♦				
5069	Ruby Spice Summersweet	❁		♦	♦		♦			♦	
5078	Sweetfern	❁		♦		♦					♦
5116	Royal Purple Smokebush	❁				♦			♦		
5138	Meadowlark Forsythia	❁							♦	♦	
5157	Large Fothergilla			♦	♦					♦	
5168	Annabelle Hydrangea	❁			♦						
5172	Endless Summer Hydrangea				♦				♦	♦	
5182	Limelight Hydrangea	❁			♦				♦	♦	
5186	Pee Gee Hydrangea	❁			♦				♦	♦	
5189ff	Winterberry			♦			♦			♦	
5204	Henry's Garnet Sweetspire			♦		♦				♦	
5210	Beautybush	❁							♦		
5222	Dropmore Scarlet Honeysuckle				♦		♦	♦			
5240	Bayberry	❁				♦	♦			♦	
5269	Mockorange	❁							♦	♦	
5306ff	Potentilla			♦		♦				♦	
5320	Dwarf Sand Cherry	❁				♦	♦				♦
5345	Staghorn Sumac	❁				♦	♦			♦	♦
5350	Rosa rugosa		3			♦	♦			♦	♦
5372	Bombu's Rose	❁				♦					
5479	Marie Bugnet Rose					♦				♦	
5488	Morden Blush Rose					♦	♦			♦	
5493	Morden Sunrise Rose					♦					
5502	Rambling Red Rose					♦					
5505	Redleaf Rose					♦	♦			♦	
5519	Seven Sisters Rose	❁				♦	♦			♦	
5533	The Fairy	❁				♦					
5534	Therese Bugnet Rose	❁				♦				♦	
5552	Virginia Rose	❁				♦	♦			♦	
5568	Black Pussy Willow	❁		♦							
5577	Blue Leaf Arctic Willow	❁		♦			♦			♦	♦
5592	Black Lace Elderberry	❁		♦			♦		♦	♦	
5642ff	Spirea	❁									
5720	White Snowberry	❁			♦		♦				
5792ff	Lilac	❁				♦				♦	
5930	Emerald Triumph Viburnum	❁				♦	♦		♦	♦	
5940	Snowball Viburnum	❁		♦			♦		♦	♦	
5943	Doublefile Viburnum						♦		♦	♦	
5975	Tango Weigela	❁							♦	♦	
5985	Aunt Dee Wisteria	❁						♦			
6271	Jack-in-the-Pulpit				♦						
6341	Marsh Marigold			♦							
6351	Lily of the Valley				♦	♦					♦
6421ff	Ferns			♦	♦						♦
6511ff	Daylily	some							♦		♦
6581ff	Hosta			♦	♦						♦
6651ff	Siberian Iris	❁		♦							
6671	Lavender	❁				♦					
6791ff	Bee Balm			♦							
6861ff	Tree Peony								♦		
6901	Russian Sage					♦					
6961	Solomon's Seal			♦	♦						
7021	Canadian Ginger				♦						♦
7031	Black Cohosh	❁		♦	♦						
7041	Codonopsis	❁						♦			
7061	Hyssop	❁				♦					
7081	Valerian	❁		♦							

ff = and following

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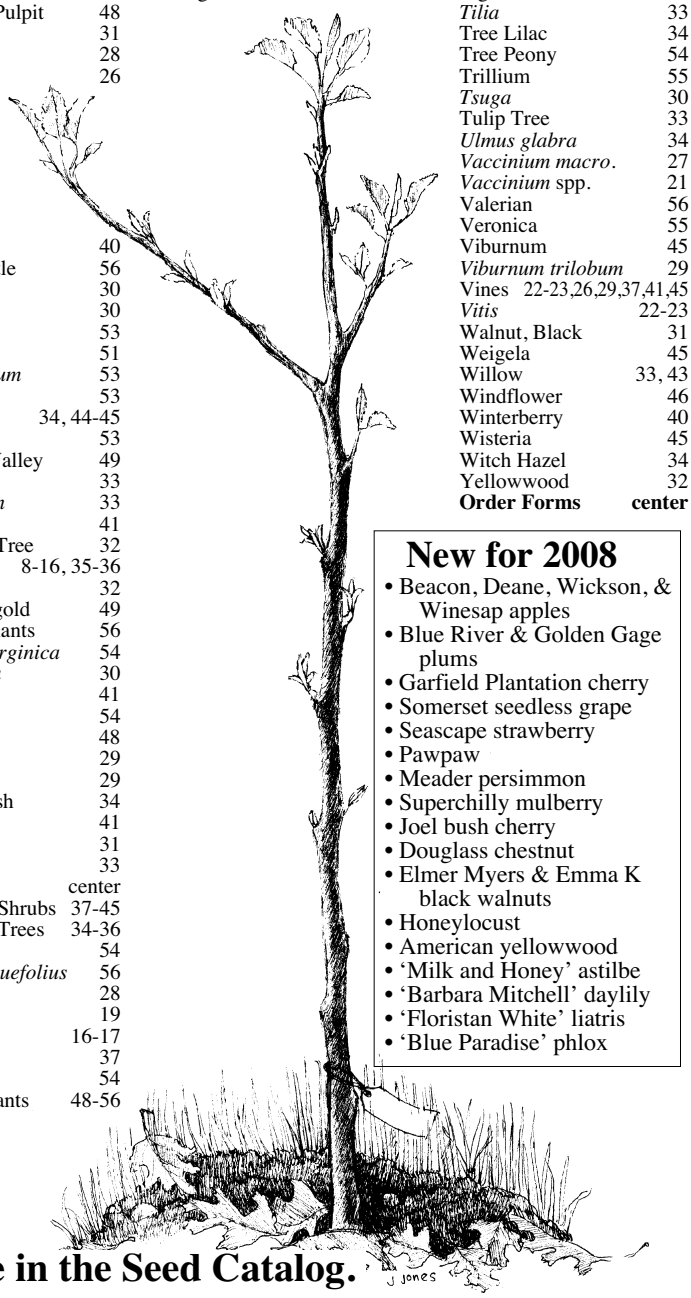
- 'Barbara Mitchell' daylily
- 'Floristan White' liatris
- 'Blue Paradise' phlox



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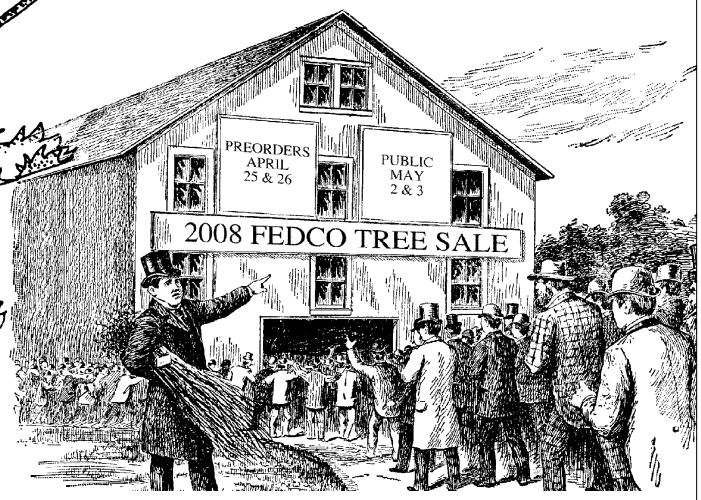

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